California GARDEN

SINCE 1909 DECEMBER 1964 - JANUARY 1965 VOL. 55 NO. 6

DESERT HOLLY
Photograph by Betty Mackintosh

CALIFORNIA CHRISTMAS CONIFERS

PLUMERIAS

AFRICAN VIOLETS

FRAGRANT NATIVE SHRUBS

FREEWAY LANDSCAPING

AGAVE ARRANGEMENT

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December, 1964 - January, 1965

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Mrs. Frances Schoneman discusses "Christmas Greens"
Holiday tea hostess: Mrs. Eugene Cooper

Regular Meeting, January 19, 1965, 8 p.m.
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Illustrated with colored slides by Mr. Eugene Cooper.

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1. **Creative Arts Class,** 10 a.m. First and Third Tuesdays.
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2. **Flower Arrangement Demonstration Class,** 9:30 a.m.
   Last Monday of each month.
   Instructor: Mrs. J. R. Kirkpatrick.
3. **Ikebana Class,** 10 a.m. Second and Fourth Wednesday.
   Instructor: Mrs. Ralph Canter
4. **Ikebana Evening Class,** 7-9 p.m. First and Third Monday nights.
   Instructor: Mrs. Ralph Canter.

COVER PICTURE
DESERT HOLLY
Photographed by
Betty Mackintosh
See story p. 9

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December-January Down-to-Earth Gardening

by Ed Ogden

THE WINTER season offers plentiful rewards for our labors earlier this fall. Camellias and the first azaleas are coming into bloom along with calla lilies, poinsettias, flowering tea trees, dombeya, cyclamen, birds-of-paradise, and the first acacias. First plantings of primroses, cinerarias, stock, snapdragons, violas and pansies, iceland poppies, calendulas and red flax are in full bloom. (Incidentally, it's now time for the second planting of those listed above, if it's not been done already.) Early bulbs such as ranunculus, freesias, anemones, veltheimias and tulbaghias will be coming into bloom during this period. Throughout December and January gardeners can continue planting narcissus and daffodils, tulips, ranunculus, alliums, sparaxis, ixias, ornithogalums and similar "fall" bulbs — reassuring the lazy gardener who didn't get these bulbs in on time. Lily bulbs can still be planted, and fragrant tuberoses will be available during this period. Don't forget bonemeal with *all* bulbs.

Bare root planting season is with us — the chance to add to the rose garden some of the new prize-winning varieties or more of the old reliables, to start a family orchard, establish a berry patch, or to plant deciduous shade trees. Most of the new rose varieties are satisfactory for our area, products of thorough testing programs. New varieties in fruit trees often perform poorly for us, indicating the tried-and-true, but those that are adaptable become valued additions to the list and reward the gardener willing to try something new. The dwarfs especially attract by their versatility and low space requirement. Strawberries do superbly here and the new Torrey will be widely available this year. Rhubarb and artichokes perform double duty as ornamentals and for food, and the same can be said for grape vines — but remember the difference between arbor grapes and the European table varieties.

Selection of varieties shouldn't be left to chance in our mild-winter areas, so we urge those without personal experience in the performance of different varieties to consult with gardeners familiar with the area and with competent nurserymen in their selections. Nothing is more frustrating than planting a tree and discovering five years later that it was doomed to poor performance before it was planted. Here are a few examples of the need for competent advice: Other than a half-dozen varieties, apples require more winter dormancy than our mild winters provide; most figs can be cut back severely and kept to large bush form, but the Black Mission must be planted where it can become a large tree since it will not tolerate severe pruning; also on figs, avoid Kadotas and others which need the Capri moth for fertilization, else they may quit producing early in life; experience indicates only one cherry, the English Morello, as satisfactory in mild-winter areas; the Hale peach seldom produces well in coastal regions; only certain grape varieties do well near the coast including Cardinal, Perlette, Black Monukka and the Concord arbor grape; pears are very spotty performers unless your area gets downright chilly through the winter; and on and on in similar vein.

Many gardeners prepare planting holes for bare root roses and fruit trees a month or two in advance, digging a large hole and mixing a sack of steer manure with the soil — if kept moist for a least a month the heat is out of the steer by planting time. If soil is prepared at time of planting a sack of digested sewage sludge is recommended for amending

the soil, possibly the prepared planter mix would be preferred if your soil is almost pure sand. Here again, roses and fruiting plants require bonemeal added to the soil mixture.

Pruning and dormant spraying of deciduous plants is a normal garden job during this period and by far the most important maintenance task of the year. Follow the Rose Society's recommendations on this job; we would add only that the borer is an increasing problem, so be certain to apply tree seal to the pruning cuts. Our fruit trees vary widely in their pruning requirements: peaches bear on new wood, whereas apples and cherries bear on spurs from old wood, with other varieties between these two extremes — so a pruning manual is a necessity. Dormant spraying is not a simple job — some common dormant sprays damage certain trees, some trees require more than one spraying, and the timing of the application is often critical.

We are fortunate here in being able to save Christmas potted plants and use them out-of-doors once the holiday season is over, but these plants require special handling as they have been forced and otherwise unnaturally produced. Christmas poinsettias are not mature plants — these are new cuttings rooted only this past summer and can't tolerate the neglect mature poinsettias enjoy; keep them wet during their good period, then set them outside in the shade after the holidays and gradually cut back on watering until they are dormant in late February or March when they are transplanted

into the ground. Azaleas become extremely root-bound during the forcing process, so when bloom is past soak the rootball and separate and spread roots, plant in a mixture of shredded firebark and peatmoss (pre-moistened) and water in with Hormex solution. Christmas cactus will tolerate more moisture when in bloom, but toward the end of the blossoming period cut back on the water and hang the plants outside in partial or complete shade. Cyclamen enjoy humidity and coolness so obviously seldom do well for any period indoors — move them outside in a cool shady spot as soon as possible and keep them moist and well fed. A note on keeping potted mums—applicable the year 'round — reminding that these plants, too, were rooted cuttings just a few months ago, so when the bloom is past and they are transplanted to the garden *do not* cut them back to ground as you would established clumps; leave most of the foliage until they have time to produce little offsets by the stems.

We want to repeat earlier reminders on treatment of subtropicals through the cold months, divided into two distinct approaches: if your area receives significant frost, withhold fertilizer entirely to harden plant tissues and prevent formation of tender new growth; or if you are in a frost-free area, do just the opposite and feed more heavily than normal to compensate for inefficient root performance. In either case keep your tropicals as dry as possible so that soil temperatures will be higher — to the extreme case of established hibiscus, bougainvilleas and similar types with extensive root systems which are better off without any irrigation at all during winters of normal rainfall.

Which brings to mind another reminder: normal irrigation patterns should continue to be followed until we have had several inches of rainfall, except that the frequency of irrigation may be reduced as air and soil temperatures drop. Too often we tend to neglect irrigation after the first good rain, forgetting that deep-

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rooted plants must receive several inches of rain for penetration of the root zone. Regular deep watering also will assist the leaching action of heavy rains in removing accumulations of alkali salts from the soil. Another point to remember is that deciduous plants require soil moisture just as much during their dormant period as when leafed out.

Plant lovers increasingly are finding excellent Christmas gift items in nurseries and garden shops. Potted plants and pruning shears used to be the extent of Christmas items available, but in recent years the list is much lengthened: Pines and hollys fully decorated with ornaments and little personal gift items, to be enjoyed and then planted outside. Gift certificates. Devices to measure soil moisture in pots. Rain gauges, barometers and humidity indicators. Patio items. Statuary. Soil testing kits. Totally new concepts in garden tools. Terrariums. Bird feeders. And many more items, often especially valuable in finding the right thing for that "person-who-has-everything."

One last word on a fairly recent phenomenon, the living Christmas tree. More and more home-owners are purchasing living trees for use as Christmas trees for the home, then tubbing them for use the following season or planting them in the yard. Caution in choosing such a tree is important in that many of the most beautiful species found for sale have not proven adaptable in our area and to our irrigation water. The various fir trees are beautiful but totally unable to exist in our climate and elevation. Of thousands of spruce trees planted in our areas we know of only a handful that have lived, possibly because of sensitivity to alkaline water. Sequoias and redwoods start off well, but seem to uniformly die off in a few years. And a great many of the most attractive pines simply will not exist at lower elevations or expire from our irrigation water. So be careful in your selection, and inquire of your nurseryman whether the tree of your preference actually will live and perform for you.

Happy holidays!

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GARDEN TOURS FOR MEMBERS

Because of the Christmas Lights Bus Tour on December 21, there will be no visits to home gardens in that month.

Sunday, Jan. 10, 1965, 2-5 p.m., members are invited to see two more gardens supervised by W. J. Sinjen, whose home they visited in November. These gardens are close together, mostly on an easy walking level.

Tour 1—Garden of Mr. Al Koenig at 1123 Emerald St., Pacific Beach.

This small garden is an amazing example of what good growers can do from a standing start in four years. Like all Sinjen gardens, there is an emphasis on ferns—from the unusual Sadleri, with four trunks, to the enormous *Asparagus retofractus*.

Note the handsome walls of the lath-house that are made of cedar logs from Volcan Mountains, with the handsome gray bark left on—a perfect background for a collection of Staghorn ferns. Creamy-white and pinky green leaves of a *Ficus petiolarus* brighten a shady corner. Donkey-tail succulents are well placed and citrus trees are loaded with fruit.

Tour 2 — Garden of Miss Elaine Dolle at 1045 Agate Street, Pacific Beach.

The small silver tree in the front yard might almost be called Mr. Sinjen's signature. There is also an olive tree with an interesting trunk. The rear garden is a plantsman's dream of trees and shrubs normally read about in books. For instance, the very young Balsa tree, about 30 inches high, was sporting close to 18 inch, heart-shaped leaves, almost square in proportion.

Miss Dolle has a rare collection of Cycads, some never named, and ferns of all kinds. Hairy brown tendrils of *Vitis* or *Cissus voinierianum* outline the roof of the inviting patio, backed by giant bamboos. A splendid specimen of Catalina Ironwood forms an east boundary while a feathery Podocarpus shades the center. Look for the plum tree with nine fruit grafts!

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AN ARTIFICIAL CHRISTMAS TREE

I think that I shall never see
A thing as ugly as this "tree."
Instead of needles soft and green,
It has a harsh, metallic sheen.
The branches fold, it's trunk is square;
No bird has ever nested there.
No fragrance, as of pine or spruce,
Pervades the air throughout its use.
It never felt the gentle rain,
The season's change on hill and plain,
Or sensed the tender loving care
Provided in plantations where,
Under the grower's watchful eye
The green trees thrive beneath the sky.
This thing of metal's not for me
I want a green and fragrant tree.

Woodbridge Metcalf
Retired Extension Forester
University of California, Berkeley

California Conifers for Christmas

By Vera Morgan

Sierra Redwood at Palomar.

With visions of happy children renewing the old customs of selecting their own Christmas trees, Miss Morgan researched this article. A former librarian, she was exposed to Mrs. Wheatley's garden classes years ago, with the usual result that horticulture has been her secondary interest ever since. All these qualifications have made her services as assistant editor of this issue doubly appreciated.

WHEN grandfather was a boy, and Christmas time grew near, mother sent the boys to the woods to pick out and cut down a sizeable well-shaped evergreen to be decorated with paper chains and strings of popped corn and cranberries, with a few store-bought ornaments and a silver star on top.

As houses grew up all around, trees grew fewer and fewer. The first state bulletin on growing Christmas trees as a crop came out in Michigan in 1915. A little later, New York's state forester wrote: "Christmas trees are a forest crop just as much as pulpwood, and the landowner is entitled to a profit from same."

The raising of Christmas trees is a growing agricultural industry in California, which produced over 800,000 trees in 1963, as compared to 12,000 available in 1952. The growers themselves call them Christmas tree farms instead of nurseries, since most of the trees are grown on acreage, rather than in containers. The Forestry and Agricultural bulletins use the term plantations, since most trees are now planted in prepared soil. The earlier method was to thin young native growth that reseeded in cutover land.

Many of the popular pines from the mountains can not be grown in California. New varieties are being tested for our climate and growing conditions. The most successful ones raised commercially in California are: Monterey pine, 54%, Douglas fir, 26%, Scotch pine, 9%, Sierra redwood, 4%, and Bishop pine, 3%. Incense cedar, Arizona cypress, Aleppo pine, Beach and Austrian pine, Grand fir, Norway spruce and Coulter pine are all being planted experimentally. There are at present over 160 growers in California with farms ranging from 1 to 100 acres but the average is about 5 acres. These produce about 3% of the Christmas trees sold in the California market.

In San Diego county, a bulletin on growing Christmas trees by Seward Besemer of the University of California Agricultural Extension Service recommends farm planting of Monterey pine, *P. radiata,* and Sierra redwood, *Sequoia gigantea,* and for variety, Bishop pine, *P. muricata,* Aleppo pine, *P. halepensis,* Knobcone pine, *P. attenuata,* Arizona cypress, *Cupressus arizonica,* Incense cedar, *Librocedrus decurrens,* Ponderosa pine, *P. arizonica.* Scotch pine, *P. sylvestris* and Coulter pine, *P. coulteri.*

Monterey pine can produce saleable trees, 6 feet high, in 2-3 years. It is a pleasing bright green tree with medium large needles. Denseness is achieved by constant pruning and sheering and by root shocking. In the same period of time the Sierra redwood grows naturally into a perfect conical shape. (See photograph.) The foliage is gray-green and juniper-like. The other types mentioned are grown to give the buyers more variety to select from and to test the trees under San Diego county growing conditions. Irrigated trees reach marketable size twice as fast and irrigation may do wonders for needle retention, bushiness and color.

The Choose and Cut Farms, located close to urban centers, sell container grown trees for gardens all the time. In the holiday season they permit the family to choose the tree they prefer. The grower furnishes a saw and shows the customer how to cut the tree above the lower whorl of branches, which will usually grow into a second tree. The whorl tips gradually turn upward and one or more may shoot up to make a new center. The grower selects the strongest tip, stakes it and shortens back all other stems and branches to start bushiness in the new trees. After cutting, the tree is taken to the sales office where it is measured and priced by the foot. When the tree is paid for, the owners are given a receipt to prove their rightful possession if stopped by cruising patrol officers alert to prevent illegal cutting in forestry lands.

To keep the cut tree fresh and fragrant, it should be placed in a tub of water in a shady place where the wind will not dry it out. Sprinkle it lightly each day. Before bringing it inside it can be sprayed with a vinyl plastic anti-transpirant. Recent research indicates that treatment of a tree with fire retardant chemicals or hygroscopic salts offers no advantage over standing it in water all the time. It has also been shown that if a cut tree has dried out below the moisture recovery limit

(less than 75-85% moisture content) it will continue to dry even though standing in water.

Those who want a live tree to grace the Christmas festivities with its woodsy tangy smell, can use it later to screen out an irritating view in the garden or as a foreground plant to give distance to a vista beyond. A living tree in the outdoor garden, gay with holiday decorations, expresses the joy of Christmas and good will to the passers-by. Or, in the old world tradition, it may offer feasts of grain and suet for the birds and nuts for animals.

The fir, Abies, is linked historically with Christmas. Nostalgic childhood memories may center around its upright cones and flat leaves; or thoughts may go to spruces, Picea, with pendent cones and narrow needle-like leaves. The 4-inch cones and bluish green leaves of the Kosta blue spruce, *Abies pungens,* are very striking. The hemlocks, Tsugas, are graceful, with small feathery foliage, rather soft needles and quantities of small cones.

However, those trees do not like our local growing conditions and will require much care to do at all well here. Remember also that some of these sleek shapely baby trees that you may bring home can suddenly shoot up into gangly youths that dwarf the other plants in the garden. The choice is wide. If it is cutting branches you want, with cones, the Aleppo provides them firstest and mostest, but it is big and rangy. Plan carefully for the type and size you want. Deodars are beautiful in their graceful lines and blue-gray needles, but they must be given room for the lowest branches to hug the earth. Their tiny cones are much sought but needles fall very quickly when branches are cut. Study the full-size trees around you and then take a happy family party out to one of the Pine Farms to bring your Christmas tree back alive, or cut to choice.

CHRISTMAS TREE FARMS IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Farmer's Tree Farm, 4584 Julian Hwy. 747-5548. Three mi. S.E. of Santa Ysabel. Eight acres of pines, cedars, spruce and Arizona cypress. Leaflet on request.

Ray Meyers, Cole Grade Road, Valley Center. 745-6928. One mi. north of Pala Vista store. (Closed Sundays.) Send for leaflet. Monterey pines, 3-10 ft. at 75 cents a foot. Opens Dec. 9th.

Pines to Palms, Tree Farm. Hans Henning. 789-0469. Hwy 78 Star Route, Ramona.

Summit Tree Farm. Robert Von Gunden. 912-782-3307. Hwy 79 between Warner Hot Springs and Oak Grove. 29 mi. east of Temecula.

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the DO'S and DON'TS of PLUMERIA CARE

by Ed Ogden

Fortunately we were able to call on an expert tropical grower to answer a letter asking about plumeria culture.

QUESTIONS on the culture of the frangipani (Plumeria spp.) frequently arise, now that these exotic Hawaiian flowering plants are available in nurseries. Too often the home gardener fails to achieve the results promised by the nurseryman, possibly because many nurserymen themselves aren't sufficiently familiar with the precise and definite requirements of this rewarding plant. This is understandable due to the limited supply and experience with plumeria in our gardens — witness the difficulty gardeners have with such relatively common plants as gardenias and rhododendrons, plants we've been working with for decades.

The plumeria genus is divided into two groups: the traditional frangipani in many different colors, deciduous here for five months of the year just as it is in Hawaii; and the Singapore hybrid (actually a species, *P. obtusa,* and native to Central America as all plumerias are), which is evergreen with white blossoms. The Singapore plumeria is everblooming as well as evergreen in Hawaii, but in our climatic zones blooms during the warm months only, possibly from Memorial Day through Thanksgiving, depending on the area.

Holiday Greetings From Dewey Kelley In Pauma Valley

Plumerias are proven for the entire area, from the beach to the desert, but have certain mandatory requirements:

1. *Perfect drainage.* This precludes planting in adobe soils under any circumstances, suggests avoiding peatmoss as a planting medium, and indicates tubs or large pots as desirable.

2. *Sunlight.* We have seen frangipani in lath houses and indoors, and without success. The plants need full sun near the beach, and at least half sun inland.

3. *Soil warmth.* As is the case with many tropicals, soil temperature is the key to success rather than air temperature. Some guides would include avoiding mulches or deep ground covers above the root zone, so that warmth from the sun can soak into the soil; keeping the plants on the dry side, in that wet soil is twenty or more degrees colder than dry; and applying lampblack to the soil surface in marginal cool beach areas to obtain maximum warmth from the sun.

From the above, tub culture is indicated for excellent results: tubs may be moved to sunniest locations and protected in case of frost, they provide good drainage, and soil temperature in tubs is higher than ground temperature. Other suggestions include keeping the plants very much on the dry side during coldest winter months; heavy feeding once plants are well established, using fertilizers high in nitrogen and phosphates; hosing off foliage during driest periods; and planting in a soil mixture containing equal parts of shredded firbark and *sandy* topsoil, with added humisite, soil sulphur and bonemeal. Red spider has been observed primarily on the deciduous varieties, easily controllable with common miticides, with other pests rarely presenting problems.

DESERT HOLLY

By Mary M. Kuebler

Photographs by Betty Mackintosh

Mrs. Lawrence Kuebler, a life member of the San Diego Natural History Museum, is also an artist with a keen interest in gardening. She and her sister, Mrs. W. E. Mackintosh, who belongs to the Dark Roomer's Camera Club, were both raised here.

ABOUT THREE years ago there were some desert holly seedlings, two to three inches high, on a mining claim my father had a few miles south of Mountain Springs Grade, east of San Diego. They were growing in almost pure sand in a wash where some bulldozer work was to be done. It was late summer and there had been a rain not too long before, so I dug the seedlings and took them home to my cactus garden in Chula Vista where I planted them on a mound in a mixture of half top soil and half sand. As I recall, I covered them with milk cartons the first week and then they were on their own. They have received no attention of any sort since.

Desert Holly transplant in the cactus garden of L. C. Kuebler residence, 507 Carvalos Dr., Chula Vista.

Desert Holly in its natural habitat, where eastern slope of coast range meets the desert.

Desert holly is not an upright grower. The picture on this page, taken in the plant's native habitat, shows the gnarled windbeaten underbranches. These scrags add to its decorative charm and are valued for arrangements. The plant in my garden, about thirty inches high, sprawls over a six foot area.

This saltbush, *Atriplex hymenelytra*, derives its common name from its pointed leaf scallops. The felted leaves are the color of the illustration. They were a beautiful silver in the late afternoon sun when my sister caught the above picture in my garden. The whiteness of the foliage is lost if the plant is watered. When dried, the leaves last indefinitely. Tiny nondescript flowers open in the spring. The plant is not monoecious so I must have had two kinds as you can see some tiny seed pods on the tip end of the top branch on the cover picture. They are like two kidney shaped petals pressed together with a thickened part at the base to protect the seed.

Authorities consider it is almost impossible to transplant the desert holly—it can only be taken from private land—but perhaps others did not give it the complete neglect on which my desert garden thrives.

Saintpaulias, grown by the author: left—deep pink, Pink Waltz; middle— pink Candy Cotton; right—pale pink, Pride of Rochester.

Photograph by Sim Richards

FOR COLORFUL INTERIOR DECOR, USE

African Violets

By Bertha Benson

Busy Mrs. Benson's other special interests besides saintpaulias, are pelargoniums, roses, the Judges' Council and, right now, the promotion of "Fun at the Sea World," a benefit for Quail Gardens Foundation, Inc., of which she is a director.

IN THE winter season when flowers are not always available, the African violet fancier, with seeming magic, can bring forth a bright flowery centerpiece that will enhance any festive table. It holds its own as one of the most popular house plants because of its ease of propagation and because it produces beautiful foliage and lovely blooms for so many months of the year. Culture of this wonderful plant provides an outlet for gardeners who must curtail their outdoor efforts and for those who live in apartments.

The African violet is not a violet, as the name implies but, like the Gloxinia, it belongs to the Gesneriad family. However, it does come from Africa where it was discovered in 1890 by Baron Walter von Saint Paul for whom it received its generic name, Saintpaulia.

Varieties

Modern Saintpaulias are a far cry from the old time Ionantha and Blue Boy, with plain foliage and smooth single five-petal flowers. Today this favorite house plant comes in just about every flower color except yellow. They are single, double, semi-double, and star-shape and the petals come plain, fringed, frilled, with gold or green edges. It is hard to select from foliage designated as: plain, girl, quilted, lacy, Dupont, Supreme, wavy, strap, wax, strawberry and others.

One of my favorite plants is Ohio Bountiful, a double pink with plain leaves. It first bloomed for us in January, 1963, and has never been without some flowers for the past 21 months. At this writing it has 19 open blooms and some buds. Most of the plants stop blooming for a while and then start in again. Another good performer is Pink Waltz which has small double flowers that look like little pink rosebuds. It blossoms almost as steadily as Ohio Bountiful.

For several years we did not buy any new varieties. Recently we sent for leaves of both new and popular varieties we had seen in a Eugene, Oregon nursery. They are planted in Zonolite, plus a little charcoal, and should start coming through about Christmas. Some of our new ones are:

Baby's Lace, a single white with pink fluted edge and wavy foliage.

Fairy Skies, a large sky-blue star flower with white edges; plain foliage.

Plum-Tip, another big star, pale orchid with purple tips.

Touch of Spring, white, double, green edge; wavy foliage.

White Perfection, large white, full double; plain foliage.

The best new seedling introduced at the National Convention last spring was Master Blue, a deep royal blue with semi-double fringed blossoms with white edge and heavy dark quilted foliage.

The main thing in growing Saintpaulias is to start with a healthy plant or leaf and then provide the correct amount of light, temperature, humidity, water and fertilizer.

Daylight Culture

For complete success with African violets, light is most important. Insufficient light gives lush foliage but no blooms. If the light is too strong it will cause the leaves to be yellow-

green instead of dark green. Watch your plants and place them where they have good color and bloom. No one can say which location is best as it depends on the weather, trees, houses or other things shading the windows and the indoor decor.

The best place in our house is a corner where an east and south window meet. Both are covered with net curtains and Venetian blinds. The south blind is left down the year around but opened to let in as much filtered light as possible. The one on the east is dropped only at the season when the morning sun is bright and hot. Violets thrive on the weak early morning sun that comes in through the curtains.

Artificial Light

The den where we raise our violets has three windows. Against an inside wall my husband built a sturdy stand. Over the top shelf is one 40 watt fluorescent light. Over each of the two shelves below are 40 watt Gro-lux fluorescent tubes. The lights, 10 to 12 inches above the plants, are left on for twelve hours each day. Most growers use two tubes of lights. Watch the plants. If the leaves seem light in color, move them to the edge or further from the light. Too much light for too many hours may cause the plant centers to stay small and tight. The varieties with dark flowers and those with thick leaves can stand more light then the pinks, whites and pale blues. Light-colored violets, like blonds, red-heads and thin-skinned people, sunburn more quickly. Keep the plants symmetrical by frequent turning to get the light on all sides. Where necessary, pull the leaves gently into place and secure with a label for a few weeks.

Temperature

The ideal warmth for African violets is 70 degrees in the daytime and 60 at night. Most varieties can stand temperatures considerably higher or lower. Nights are not too cold around Mission Bay so we do not leave our furnace on at night but it would be better for our plants if we did. Really hot days here are rare.

Humidity

If the atmosphere is too dry violets will put out nice foliage but, if buds should appear, they will not open properly. In their natural habitat Saintpaulias have high humidity, much rain and very, very good drainage. We provide extra humidity by standing the plants on red cinder or lava rocks in shallow trays. About twice a week, or whenever the rocks are getting dry, we pour hot water from the tap over them. The plants love the steam that comes up around the foliage. Cooking and dish washing keeps the kitchen humid. On dry days we use warm water in a mist sprayer. Wet leaves will spot if left in a draft or strong light.

Circulation of Air

Violets should not be crowded against each other. Good circulation of fresh air will help prevent mildew. Dust with sulphur if it develops. Avoid a draft of cold air. In good weather we leave our east front door open all all day if we are home, but only for a while in winter.

Watering

If you are successful with either top or bottom watering continue with your own method. No one can tell you how often to water. Some plants absorb it faster; some are more root bound; some soil is more porous. The kind and size of the pot makes a difference. Clay pots dry out faster. On the other hand, if a plant in a plastic pot is too wet, root or crown rot may develop before it dries out. Violets should never be bone dry. Do not water a plant that feels moist. *Let the surface get dry* before watering, then give enough to penetrate all the way. Water should be warm. We catch rain water and store it in gallon jugs. Before using it we boil it to kill any possible fungus or pests, and frequently add a little B-1 to it. If you have chlorinated water let it stand 24 hours before using. Avoid water that has been softened artificially.

Fertilizers

Any of the liquid fertilizers are good. We have used different brands of fish emulsions and others. Some contain more of the minor elements necessary for plant growth so we change about. We used to use a weak solution in each watering so, if a plant was too moist to be watered at one time, it would get a little fertilizer on the next round. Now we have divided our collection into three groups and are using a different fertilizer for each, following package directions. The first brand is 18-20-16, the next 10-5-5 and the last 11-4-8. In general, if foliage growth is desired, use a high nitrogen fertilizer. If the plant has reached blooming size and age, it needs less nitrogen and more phosphorus and potash. It is better to under fertilize than to overdo it. Naturally a big plant will require more food than a small one.

Leaf Propagation

The most popular method of propagation is by leaf cuttings. If a friend offers you a cutting you are happy to accept whatever is offered. In selecting a leaf from your own plant choose a nice one from the middle row. Old leaves are likely to rot or give weak plants. Young immature leaves produce less vigorous plantlets. Sometimes the leaves grow larger while they are rooting and producing new plants.

Leaves that come in the mail may need special treatment. If the stem looks clean and healed it need not be cut off unless to shorten it. If it is shriveled or damaged remove the bad portion, let the stem dry a while and then immerse the entire leaf and stem in tepid water to which a bit of B-1 has been added. Usually within a few hours or a day the leaf will become crisp again. 1½ to 2 inches is a nice length for rooting. Cut the petiole (stem) with a clean sharp razor blade, on a slant and dry a few minutes.

Propagation Methods

There are many ways to root a leaf. If you start it in water, a colored glass, such as an amber vitamin bottle, will prevent algae formation. Water should cover about 1 inch of the petiole. Keep the bottle in a warm place out of direct sunlight. As soon as the roots have formed, but *before* tiny green leaves appear, plant the leaf in a very loose growing medium.

Years ago when I first started playing around with African violets, I planted the leaves directly in the growing medium. This is satisfactory but the plants will be slower to show up. Some growers start leaves in peat moss, leafmold, sand or a combination of these, plus Sponge-rok. The rooting medium should be clean, sterile and moist. Use small individual pots or put several leaves in a shallow pan. All should be clean.

Insert the petioles about ½ inch deep in the rooting mixture. If the leaf is heavy it may need to go in a little deeper or be propped up in some way. The deeper it is planted the longer it will take the baby plantlets to come through. They usually appear in from 2 to 5 months, depending on the variety and environment. Some will start blooming 6 months after the leaf is picked, others take 12 months. Use a small plastic label for each leaf or write the name in pencil (ink runs when wet) on a small piece of adhesive and stick it right on the leaf.

One prize grower uses 3 parts vermiculite and one part of Sponge-rok to start her leaves. She sprinkles char-

coal over the bottom of a 2 inch deep container, fills it with the dampened mixture and puts the 1½ inch stems in pencil holes. She lightly tamps the mixture around the petioles, keeps them moist and in a good light. As soon as the plantlets appear she feeds them with a light solution of Hyponex. We fertilize lightly after the leaves have been planted two weeks.

Keep the leaves in a cool, rather dark place for 3 to 4 days, then move them to a warm spot with good light but only early morning sun. Moisten with tepid water, never keep them wet and never let them dry out completely. If rot starts, recut the petiole, dry a little and replant. While the plants are rooting there is lots of time to consider these potting mixtures.

Potting Mixtures

Most growers have favorite concoctions. Some of us change the potting combination from time to time seeking one the violets might like better. One grower uses two mixes. For baby plants she screens leafmold through a ¼ inch mesh, moistens it and bakes it in No. 10 fruit cans in a 250 degree oven for 2 hours. To this is added ½ part of Sponge-rok and 1 part vermiculite. Young plants are left in 2 inch pots in this mixture until roots show at the bottom.

Shifts to 3 inch pots and larger are made with the following items:

4 parts oak leafmold
½ part woods soil
¼ part coarse sand
½ part cow manure

Sterilize above by oven method, add:

½ part vermiculite
½ part Sponke-rok

To each quart of this mix add:

2 tablespoons of charcoal
1 tablespoon of bonemeal

Mixture for Hard Water

8 parts clean coarse sand
1 part acid peat

To each bushel of the above add:

6 tablespoons hoof and horn
7 tablespoons superphosphate
1 tablespoon sulfate of potash
7½ tablespoons dolomite lime

Formerly we made our own mixture but for the past year and a half we have been using, as directed, a ready-made planter mix right out of the bag. It has already been treated for insects and disease so we are saved much time and labor. We usually add a pinch of dolomite lime to each pot when planting. Whatever combination you use, it should hold moisture; be granular enough to drain away excess water; should be light and airy; should be neutral to slightly acid. For extra insurance against nematodes treat mixture with VC13, and set aside for 2 weeks or more. Cover and stir occasionally.

Separation of Young Plants

When the new plants clustered around the leaf are 1½ to 2 inches high it is time to divide them.

First, gather together all the materials for this job. Cover the kitchen drainboard with newspapers. Clean a good supply of 2 inch pots. Clay pots should have strips of foil over the edges to keep the salts from rotting the leaf stems when they touch there. Have a moist potting mixture ready and something for drainage in the bottom of the pots, such as a one-inch square of screen, clay pot shards, pebbles or the small red cinder rocks we use. They are obtainable from building and patio material sources. You will also need labels, pencil, tablespoon, sharp razor blade, B-1, aluminum pie pan, large bowl and warm water.

Taking young plants from the parent leaf is a bit tricky as the tiny leaves are tangled and easily broken. Some will be larger than others and often the roots will go with one or two plants leaving the rest without any. Put the rootless and tiny ones back into the rooting medium or replant the mother leaf with the attached babies until they grow larger. If a valuable mother leaf is still crisp after plantlets are removed, recut the petiole, dry a bit and return to mixture.

When the little plants are hard to tease apart it helps to hold them under gently running warm water while you separate them, or put them in a bowl of tepid water and gently shake them apart. Keep the roots of other plantlets from drying out, while you are repotting, by laying them in the pie pan of luke-warm water, to which a few drops of B-1 have been added.

Potting Young Plants

Cover the bottom of the pots with drainage material, sprinkle with a little charcoal and a spoonful of potting mix. Top this with a small amount of rooting medium, set the baby plant in the center while adding a little more rooting medium around the roots. Finish around the edge of the pot with the potting soil. If the plant wabbles, support it with a label. Do not cover the crown of the plant. Settle the plant with a few drops of water to which a bit of Superthrive has been added. Do not overwater at this time. After a few days, move to a warm light place.

Care of Larger Plants

At present most of our plants have graduated from small pots with drainage holes to some kind of planter. A deep plastic compote is one of my favorite planters for a large single-crown violet. It holds the foliage well above the rocks on the trays. It is also a ready and effective decoration for the dining table. There are no drainage holes so great care must be taken not to overwater. With rainwater there is not as much danger of an accumulation of salts in the bottom. Occasionally our plants are washed off with warm water from the fine spray attached to the kitchen sink. The outer leaves love these washings. It is done in the forenoon when the temperature is rising and plants can dry off before evening. If too much water gets into the planter we tip it and drain out all the excess. African violets cannot stand water-logged soil. After washing we gently blow and blot all moisture out of the heart of the plant to prevent the start of any fungus disease. The plants are returned to their trays, the lights turned out and the window blinds closed until the violets are dry again. Saintpaulias may have the following blights:

Insects and Diseases

Cyclamen mite is the insect most apt to damage violets. A magnifying glass is necessary to see these pests. The infestation starts with the center of the plant. Young leaves become deformed and brittle, turn brownish or gray and the flowers are distorted.

Nematodes are tiny worms that cause knots to form on the roots. There is another species that mines the petiole and leaf. The dreaded crown rot is a decay or tissue breakdown caused by microscopic organisms such as fungus, bacterium, nematodes or insects. "Stunt" is a disease believed to be caused by virus transmitted by cuttings. The leaves become thick and brittle and do not attain normal size. There is no known cure. Throw the plants out, sterilize everything and start over. Aphis or mealy bug respond to standard treatment.

The best protection against plant troubles is good culture, coupled with soil sterilization. Always start with healthy plants and leaves. Care and prevention pay off even though it may seem like a lot of work. African violets are not hard to grow if you take the precautions outlined. When you are rewarded with a colorful collection of beautiful Saintpaulias you will be richly repaid for your efforts.

ROLAND HOYT* RECOMMENDS

TECOMARIA CAPENSIS

THIS IS a general purpose plant from South Africa that is widely adapting in the shrubby concept and for that reason must be carefully studied before being committed to site. A look at the flower will suggest its close relationship to Bignonia . . . but not the leaves. Known as the "Cape-honeysuckle" it finds a great many applications in planting throughout subtropical regions and is more commonly found there than wisely used.

In the first place, its natural desire to scramble must be recognized, especially if being considered for a small garden. It can be held to a rounding, densely stemmed, medium-sized to very large bush, but life is short for most and one has only so many hours to spend in the garden. The intelligent approach is to search the lists for a shrub that does that which is required without this eternal cutting and heading back. Besides, such an operation over the years, while good and effective calorie control, results in an artificial device unendowed with reason that interprets only delusion, a sleight of hand that becomes heavy with time and sham and dense un-yielding mass.

There are actually many planting purposes of merit and validity here. Consider a great, free-flowing and mounding structure of rich, dark greenery and an antimony of color, year after year, rich and warm and exhilarating . . . this for a spot otherwise difficult to handle in a normal manner. Then there is the matter of bringing this greenery and color from the outside into a paved area where no soil is available. Set this plant on the outside and carefully guide the long streamers into, say a patio where roots are impossible to accommodate or unthinkable in view of the more delicate plants to be served. See what this plant will do in generous, controllable mass against stark, inflexible construction. Know what shadows do to a wall. Or an espalier on the grand scale . . . free-standing preferably, with ultimately a base trunk of six inches or more. This will require not only sufficient root-room, but a more than usual care and watchfulness in pinching out and pruning to develop stout laterals . . . these to be self-supporting. It can be done.

This plant will vine high on support if the lower branches are removed as they come on. This removal will not be forever, since even such a vigorous individual will give up a hopeless cause and spend its effort nearer the extremities. There, the gardener will most appreciate a conclusion and slowing down in added color. Think also of a bank or ground cover coming from a single root source and serving the better part of a small city lot. It will be necessary from time to time to cut out insistent erect growths and to weight down or hook in the spreading stems. This will call for time, but compare this effort with the struggle ordinarily required to establish the stock materials recommended. The prostrate branches will readily root in, especially if there is some moisture at times for the top soil. I have seen it grown as a hedge barrier, the interlacing stems so strongly knit as to prevent passing through, standing of itself and enough flowering wood developing within the confines to give a sprinkle of color to the glistening green. It could be doubted there was more hand cutting than usual in developing a hedge.

This plant likes heat, but thrives gloriously along the coast. It will be more easily handled where the going is a little difficult, in very ordinary soils and where excessive irrigation can be controlled. It will burn in salt-laden winds, then settle down to good service close to the ocean, especially if backed by a wall. If necessary, it will survive and produce under drought, practically total dryness, as of season if the soil is of a consistency that will accept and store winter moisture. An old and very large plant stood at the base of Presidio Hill in San Diego for many years with only winter rains and while it produced little in the way of foliage and color, it survived.

(continued on page 20)

*Fellow ASLA, author of *Ornamental Plants for Subtropical Regions.*

SNOWDROP BUSH

From Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

THREE FRAGRANT and ATTRACTIVE NATIVE SHRUBS *For* SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GARDENS

Sketches by the Author

By Jacqueline Broughton

THREE native California shrubs that have grown well in the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden and are fine additions to gardens in southern California are Snowdrop Bush, Spice Bush and Tree Anemone. All of these have attractive foliage, conspicuous flowers and a pleasant fragrance.

Spice Bush, *Calycanthus occidentalis,* sometimes known as Sweet Shrub or Wine Flower is a rounded shrub that may grow to about eight feet in height. Its opposite leaves are dark green in color, rounded or heart-shaped at the base, and more or less ovate in outline. The pleasantly aromatic flowers which form singly at the ends of the branches are a deep red-brown color, and may be up to three inches across. They are pollinated by beetles which are attacted by the scent. In late summer, the flowers are followed by woody, urn-shaped fruits containing numerous seeds.

Four species of Calycanthus are native to North America. Ours occurs in the north coast ranges of California, and on the west slope of the Sierra Nevada below 4,000 feet, where it is usually found along streams or on moist canyon slopes.

Spice Bush was introduced into cultivation in 1831 from seed collected by David Douglas. This massive garden plant which will take heavy pruning is often used as a foundation planting, a background, or an accent. It is ideal for streamsides and other moist, sunny places, and may be grown in clay soil. Calycanthus does best in full or part sun; when fully shaded it tends to form thickets. Some summer water is necessary to maintain it in a healthy condition.

Snowdrop Bush, *Styrax officinalis* var. *fulvescens,* is a spreading, loosely branched shrub from three to eight feet tall. Its deciduous leaves are rounded in outline and bright green above with pale undersides. The flowers are white and have prominent bright yellow stamens. Hanging in clusters of three or four, they measure an inch across, and are very pleasantly fragrant.

Although it is deciduous, Snowdrop Bush is a good plant for home gardens. It requires some shade and will grow well under oaks, particularly in a light soil. Summer watering is recommended although Snowdrop Bush is drought tolerant. It is best used in a mixed planting where the fallen leaves will not be noticed in the fall and winter and the flowers will be conspicuous in the spring.

The Snowdrop Bush of our area is a variety of the species which grows in the inner coast ranges. It occurs in occasional isolated populations on chaparral slopes below 5,000 feet and may be found from San Luis Obispo to San Diego Counties. This variety

was first discovered in the vicinity of Painted Cave, in the hills behind Santa Barbara.

Few plants are as attractive or historically as interesting as **Tree Anemone,** *Carpenteria californica.* This plant is usually classed with the ten best shrubs in the state and is well-known throughout this country and Europe as a highly successful garden plant.

Tree Anemone is a rounded bush that produces large fragrant white flowers. The leaves are blue-green above and gray beneath, and the bark is pale in color and shreds as the stems mature. It is best used as a background planting, and in California serves as a substitute for Mock Orange to which it is related.

Many California plants are narrow endemics, occurring within a small geographic area. *Carpenteria californica* grows in only a few stands on the dry granite slopes and ridges between the San Joaquin and King Rivers in Fresno County. In these localities it has been found in the foothill woodland and yellow pine forest between 1,500 and 4,000 feet. Seeds taken from the highest elevations of the natural populations are said to be the hardiest and best for use in home gardens. Though the native habitat is dry and sunny, Tree Anemone will tolerate both partial shade and summer watering.

CARPENTERIA

Carpenteria was discovered by General Fremont during one of his expeditions to the Sierras. His specimen was unfortunately a poor one and was accompanied only by the information that it had been collected in the Sierras. The exact locality was "lost," and the plant was completely out of sight for the next thirty years. It wasn't until 1875 that it was rediscovered by Dr. Gustav Eisen, a nurseryman, who found a colony of about 1,000 plants in Big Dry Creek, northeast of Fresno. Recognizing the value of the discovery, he collected twenty-five pounds of fruit which he sent to a florist in Washington, D.C. From there the plant was further distributed to other florists in the eastern United States and in Europe.

Flowering specimens were first exhibited in California at a meeting of the California Academy of Science in San Francisco in September 1876. It has been in the California nursery trade since 1908.

Little is known of William Carpenter, for whom this plant was named, except that he was a Louisiana botanist who died in 1848 at the age of 37. He must, however, have been well-known in his time, to have had such a striking and rare plant named in his honor.

SPICE BUSH

THE SAGA OF A TRAVELING AGAVE

By Alice Mary Greer

YEAR! 1938. Place: Borrego Desert. Scene: Flower-seed stalk of *Agavi deserti* prone on the sands beside its dead broad-leaved center. Enter: Alice Greer with permit for gathering native specimens. Exit: A traveling treasure that has grown more mellow and pleasing each year.

This symmetrical agave stalk over four feet in height, bears many closely spaced, beautifully placed, rosettes about seven inches in diameter. The widest spread spans 20 inches. Texture, hardness and color resemble those of natural walnut.

Since 1938 this desert relic, piloted by its discoverer, has appeared in private and public exhibits, usually emphasizing the Yuletide motif. Traditionally this agave dominated the decor in the Gold Room of Hospitality House, Balboa Park. It was featured in the Junior League House Tours, the Zlac Christmas Decorations Shows, the San Diego Floral Association Holiday Shows at the Hafter, Goodwin, Brelin and many other homes.

Always, every Yuletide, the agave was most at home in the redwood-walled living room of its owner. Behind and across the mahogany table on which it stood, ran a continuous panel of old, unglazed gold Chinese paper. Soft-gold balls on one side and unglazed green ones on the other, both graduated in size, hugged the main stalk. A few huge dull gold balls dramatically placed on the muted green and gold that was drifted over the large mahogany plaque at the base, gave the effect of weight to the stylized, but simple, arrangement. The strong architecture of the stalk itself calls for the omission of garlands and dangles.

Now, after 26 years of intensive travel and happy adornment in the home of Alice Greer, *Agavi deserti* has been passed on to Emily Carringer who maintained its tradition by entering it in the "Wonderful World of Wood" Show in the Floral Building last October.

Photograph by Mary Jane Hershy

Arrangement and description by Emily Carringer.

The warm brown seed pods of the Century plant seem a fitting companion for a century old French brazier of inlaid wood, lined with brass. Gold balls dot the pods and wired gold leaves add a note of holiday elegance to the warm wood tones and fine craftsmanship of a past era.

Arranged against a turquoise background in a contemporary home, with open beams and wood paneling, this modern counterpart of the traditional fir is aesthetically satisfying.

Freeway Landscaping

A Healing Process

A welcome sign on Crosstown Freeway

By George A. La Pointe

When George La Pointe was editor, he brought CALIFORNIA GARDEN *to the front as a live and helpful garden magazine. As a director of Citizen's Co-ordinate he continues to be keenly aware of plans that will impair or improve the City Beautiful picture. It is a pleasure to present his positive and encouraging story of the green 'miracle' the State Highway is producing in the planting of one of our downtown freeways.*

THE SLOPES are arid, steep rocky. The much-heralded Southern California sunshine, glinting from the great slabs of gleaming roadbed and the concrete retaining walls, seems menacing rather than inviting. The cars speed past, generating their own heat, plus a destructive smog and a black smudge whose cumulative effect is to choke off life. This is a freeway, a freeway without planting.

In spite of these conditions inimical to life, this same stretch of road can become a green tunnel. From blistering heat to refreshing coolness. From scalding sunlight to eye-easing light and shadow. From the rigid perpendiculars of posts and girders to the free-flowing, billowing forms of plants. Freeway landscaping is a healing process.

Such a transformation is taking place now on a one-mile portion of the Crosstown Freeway between Sixth Avenue and Palm in San Diego. Involved in the change are hundreds of hours of work on the part of designers and workmen, yards and yards of fertilizer and top soil, miles of pipe, thousands of plants, and something over $140,000.

The statistics of this sort of undertaking are so awe-inspiring that it is a temptation to let them take over the story. For instance, let's look at the list as copied from the plans at the State Division of Highways office in San Diego. Picture yourself dropping in at your neighborhood nursery on a Saturday afternoon and asking for the following:

74	*Eucalyptus citriodora*
1037	*Xylosma senticosa*
172	*Parthenocissus tricuspidata*
145	*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*
118	*Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* 'Brilliante'
89	*Bougainvillea* 'Barbara Karst'
26	*Bougainvillea* 'Scarlett O'Hara'
1331	*Acacia longifolia*
500	*Pyracantha crenato-serrata* 'Graber'
1034	*Callistemon lanceolatus*
2353	*Nerium oleander* (mixed colors)
64	*Nerium oleander* (white)
1643	*Jasminum humile revolutum*
115	*Plumbago capensis*
500	*Cotoneaster lactea*
33	*Eucalyptus ficifolia*
21	*Jacaranda acutifolia*
10	*Phormium tenax*
15	*Tipuana tipu*
103	*Washingtonia robusta*
352,900	*Mesembryanthemum croceum* (a blockbuster, even in the form of 6-inch cuttings.)

That was the shopping list placed in the hands of T. J. Robert Co., Inc. and Terry J. Robert when their joint-venture bid of $142,411.96 was accepted last summer by the State. In actual practice, procurement of plants in quantities such as these is planned well in advance of advertising the project for bids. The Division of Highways estimates the quantity of trees, shrubs and ground cover plants which will be needed and arranges for their propagation and delivery. As many as 30,000 of a single variety of plant has been ordered grown for one job in past years.

How will these plants be used? They divide logically into four classes: ground cover plants, vines, shrubs and trees.

The hundreds of thousands of ice plant (*Mesembryanthemum croceum*) cuttings will cover and retain the slopes. Over the years, the State Division of Highways has experimented with every type of ground cover, both native and exotic, and ice plant is one of the few that has passed the rugged test.

The vines will be used to soften the rigid lines of the pillars and retaining walls. From Sixth Avenue to approximately First Avenue, the freeway runs underground. At each pillar of the overpasses a Japanese creeper vine (*Parthenocissus tricuspidata*) will be installed in a drilled hole along with a sprinkler. Both Japanese and Virginia creeper (*P. quinquefolia*) will be planted against the retaining walls through this underground section. From First Avenue northwestward the freeway rises above the surface into the sunlight. The vines used along the retaining walls here are the two Bougainvilleas.

Probably the most prominent feature, at least in the years until the trees mature, will be those plants in the shrub category. Much of the open area will be covered with drifts of what the designers have designated "mixed shrubs." This group includes the red-flowering Bottlebrush (*Callistemon lanceolatus*), the berried shrubs Pyracantha and Cotoneaster, yellow-flowering Jasmine, the colorful mixed Oleanders, and the glossy-leaved Xylosma. You will notice that color is a primary feature of these shrubbery choices, as it was in the plants used to landscape the intersection of the

Crosstown Freeway and U.S. 395 at the south end of Balboa Park. Only less variety in ground covers will make this new section of freeway less colorful than the interchange which it joins at Sixth Avenue.

The theory behind using mixed shrubbery plantings was explained by H. Dana Bowers, then Supervising Landscape Architect for the State Division of Highways, in a paper presented to Los Angeles Beautiful in 1961. "The advantage of mixed plants is the variety and color produced in the final effect," Mr. Bowers said. "Also, as soil, drainage and exposure can effect the growth of plants, by mixing the varieties, adverse conditions will affect a minimum number and not the entire mass as if only one variety was used. It is often impossible to obtain more than a few hundred of any variety from commercial nurseries. Therefore, several varieties simplifies the problem of procurement for the landscape contractor."

The trees also will add color in a small way. Those most used, the Lemon-scented gum (*Eucalyptus citriodora*) and Washington fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*) are not noted for flowers, but a fair number of Flame eucalyptus (*E. ficifolia*), Jacaranda and Tipuana will add red, blue and yellow blooms. The fifteen Tipuanas will be worth watching especially. If they achieve anything approaching the size of the one planted by Kate O. Sessions in Pacific Beach (see California Garden, last issue), they will be the talk of the state and a tourist attraction in their own right.

East of the freeway near Kalmia Street, two billboards were erected between the time the freeway was completed and landscaping was begun. The billboards will have to come down, but not for three years, according to city ordinance. During that waiting period, perhaps their messages will become more and more obscured. There will be two Tipuanas, two *Eucalyptus citriodora,* nine Washington fan palms, two Jacarandas, and 662 mixed shrubs between the billboards and the freeway trying to do the job.

Meanwhile, the healing process will be extended southward along the route of the Crosstown Freeway. Next year the mile from Park Boulevard to Market Street will undergo similar treatment at an estimated cost of $150,000, and the following year landscaping will advance from Market to 28th Street. The gash across the face of the city gradually is changing. Blistering roadbed becomes green tunnel through the healing miracle of plants.

FIFTY YEARS AGO

My Early Days in San Diego County

By Chauncy I. Jerabek

Mr. Jerabek's extensive list of trees and shrubs that were growing here fifty years ago is a surprising record. His check on the ones that survived drought conditions should be valuable to growers with a similar problem.

IN THE spring of 1911 when I first came to San Diego some one told me about Miss K. O. Sessions. As plants were the only kind of work I was interested in I went out to her nursery at the end of the car-line in Mission Hills (Lewis and Stephens Streets). We had an interesting talk but, as she did not need any help at the time, I left my temporary address.

Within a few days she called to say she had arranged for me to go to the Scripp's Ranch at Miramar to interview the foreman. As I look back I consider this one of the highlights of my life.

At 1:00 p.m. at Fifth and E Streets in downtown San Diego I climbed aboard a four-horse supply wagon driven by a Spaniard of powerful build. We went out Fifth Avenue, down the Sixth Street grade, across Mission Valley and climbed the steep winding grade of Murray Canyon until we reached the mesa at the top. Way off in the distance were the foothills. The only noticeable things close at hand were the row of telephone poles flanking the dirt road and the native chaparral.

With the heavy load of supplies it took nearly all afternoon to reach the Miramar Ranch. During this time the only other living things I saw were one coyote, two jack-rabbits and, circling overhead, a couple of buzzards.

The next morning the foreman and I had a satisfactory talk and a sightseeing trip over the part of the ranch I would be working. After this interview I was taken to the old Linda Vista flag station where I caught the Santa Fe train back to San Diego. About a week later I began my job as head gardener for the famous publisher, E. W. Scripps. This was to be my home until the first World War.

Surrounding the main building were several hundred rose bushes. Among those I remember are: Papa Gontier, Catherine Mermet, Mme. Caroline Testout, Duchesse de Brabant, white La France, Marie Van Houtte, pink and white Maman Cochet, Paul Neyron, Magna Charta, Ulrich Brunner, Reve D'Or, Safrano, Frau Karl Druschki, Lady Ashton, Mrs. Aaron Ward, Kaiserin Auguste Viktoria, Gruss an Teplitz, Hermosa, Lady Hillingdon, *Rosa centifolia,* the Cabbage Rose and its variety *R. muscosa,* the Moss Rose.

Among the climbers were the white and yellow Banksias, Belle of Portugal, Cecile Brunner and *Rosa laevigata,* commonly known as Cherokee. There were others I do not recall now.

On the west side of the main dwelling were a number of large beds of several varieties of cannas, also annuals. The southern exposure was filled with Agaves, Dasylirious, cacti and other succulents. The most spectacular were the tree-like Cirio, Euphorbias and Giant Cereus.

All the flower beds and the edges of the circular drive were bordered with the common *Mesembryanthemum floribundum.* In the Spring its myriads of lavender flowers shimmering in the sunlight were an outstanding sight.

The house, of Spanish style, had a spacious patio large enough for a fountain in the center with a driveway around it. Each of the verdant lawns in the four corners around the pool had one or two palms such as *Cocos yatay, Howea fosteriana, H. belmoreana* or a *Cycas revoluta.* The vigorous Evergreen Fig, *Ficus repens,* covered the walls of the building on the patio side.

Against the outer walls there were trellises of Queen of Sheba, *Podranea ricasoliana,* Passion Vine, *Passiflora manicata, Bougainvillea spectabilis* and the Brick-Red variety *B. lateritia* (Paper-flowers), *Buddleia asiatica, B. madagascariensis* and, in some protected places, *Stigmaphyllum ciliatum* and *Hardenbergia comptoniana.*

Outside the patio entrance there were lawns each side of the drive. In one, two Pepper trees, *Schinus molle,* shaded a lawn swing and other outdoor furniture. These and one other grassy plot contained bronze statues by Arthur Putnam. One was called "The Plowman." The others, Fr. Junipero Serra and an Indian, were later presented by Robert P. Scripps to the City of San Diego. They were placed in Presidio Park where they may be seen today.

North of the location of the Indian statue there was a three-lane drive. On each side of the middle strips clumps of *Aloe saponaria* alternated with *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis,* while stately Cocos Plumosa vied with large *Aloe arborescens* on the border of the left road. A miscellaneous planting of trees and shrubs finished the right side of the east road.

In the acres beyond the house were about every tree and shrub known in San Diego County during this period. Let me mention a few that are rarely or never seen today.

Acacia elata, Cedar Wattle, the tallest of the pinnate-leaved acacias, has large leaves and pale yellow globular flowers.

A. mollissima, Black Wattle, forms a large spreading tree with dark green fern-like leaves and yellow flowers.

A. platyptera var. alata, a low-growing shrub with many winged stems, destitute of leaves. Along the edges are globular bright yellow flowers.

A. farnesiana, Dead Finish or Opopanax is a spiny small tree or shrub for impenetrable thickets. It has feathery foliage and fluffy balls of very fragrant yellow flowers.

A. riceana, a tree with drooping supple branchlets, deep green phyllodes and bright yellow flowers.

Amorpa fruticosa, False Indigo, a spreading shrub with pinnate leaves and spikes of attractive bluish-purple blossoms.

Argania sideroxylon. Ironwood, Argan Tree, large spreading shrub, with nearly horizontal branches, olive-tree foliage. Smaller branchlets are beset with stiff spines. The fruit is much like an olive but varies in size and shape. The trunks are gnarled and buttressed. It supplies all the cooking oil used in Western Morocco.

Buddleia alternifolia, Weeping Butterfly Bush, a shrubby plant with drooping or arching branches and soft gray-green willow-like leaves. In the Spring its pendulous branches are covered with tight bundles of fragrant lilac-purple flowers. Given ample space, when in full bloom it is truly a pleasing sight.

B. globosa, Orange Ball, a compact shrub with sage-green leaves and handsome ball-shaped heads of scented golden flowers.

B. davidi magnifica, Orange-eye Butterfly, a large shrub with coarse green foliage, slightly wooly beneath. It has dense showy spikes of deep purple-blue flowers with a bright orange eye.

Calothamnus quadrifidus, Crimson Net Bush. An upright shrub with soft pine-like foliage and bundles of showy crimson stamens and woody seed cases.

Cyphomandra betacea, Tree Tomato. A small tree with huge heart-shaped leaves. Small pinkish flowers are followed by most attractive plum-like fruits borne profusely.

Dombeya calantha, a large evergreen shrub with big leaves on arching branches tipped with clusters of bright pink flowers, which create quite a show above the leaves.

Fabiana imbricata, a small shrub with heath-like foliage and a profusion of small tubular white flowers every year.

Genista monosperma, Bridalveil, a weeping type of shrub covered with very attractive white flowers in the spring.

Grevillea halliana, White Silk Oak, a shrubby evergreen tree with leathery leaves, deep-cut or smooth-edged. Has small white flowers in dense cylindrical clusters.

Galpinia braziliensis, Rain-of-Gold, a bushy shrub with many fine reddish branches and terminal clusters of dainty five-petaled bright golden flowers.

Leonitis leonurus, Lions-tail, Minaret Flower. This South African native branches at the base into erect reedy stems that grow up to six feet. The showy velvety orange flowers, about two inches long, are produced in a single whorl from the upper axils of the principal stems and branches.

Phlomis fruticosa, Jerusalem Sage, a woody herb to four feet, from Southern Europe. Sage-like leaves are covered with a yellowish-white wooly substance. The flower whorls, at intervals on the stems, are a distinct yellow.

Pimelea spectabilis, Rice Flower, a low growing shrub with small dense leaves and umbels of flowers 2 to 3 inches across, white, tinged with rose near the tips.

Podachaenium eminens, Daisy Tree, a large shrub growing tree-like with large soft green leaves, gray tomentose beneath. It produces huge panicles of daisy-like flowers.

Quillaja saponaria, Soapbark Tree, a small shrubby evergreen tree with simple light green glossy leaves, white flowers and seed capsules of curious shape.

Severinia buxifolia, Chinese Box-orange, a shrub with thorny branches and dense dark-green box-like foliage. White flowers are followed by clusters of black pea-size fruit. A wonderful hedge plant.

Templetonia retusa, Coral Bush, a spreading shrub with small rounded leaves and pea-shaped flowers, red to reddish-bronze in color.

As a young man coming from the snowy states I was delighted with the vegetation. The majority of the plants were new to me and it was several years before I knew all of them by name. I was also astonished at the size of some of the trees and vines. A few were known to me only as greenhouse plants.

Prior to my arrival some of the hillsides had been planted to *Pinus radiata,* Monterey Pine, *P. torreyana,* Torrey Pine, *P. halepensis,* Aleppo Pine, and *P. canariensis,* the erect and columnar Canary Pine.

Scattered about the ranch were *Eucalyptus botryoides, E. calophylla, E. creba, E. cornuta, E. citrodora, E. ficifolia, E. gomphocephala, E. lehmanni.* and its variety *gompho, E. leucoxylon, E. maculata, E. melliodora, E. occidentalis, E. polyanthemos, E. robusta, E. sideroxylon, E. punctata, E. resinifera, E. rostata, E. rudis, E. tereticornis* and *E. viminalis.* These had grown so well that Mr. Scripps decided to plant the remaining acreage to two of the commoner varieties, *E. cladocalyx,* Sugar Gum and *E. globulus,* Blue Gum.

Hakea elliptica, Oval Leaf, a handsome compact shrub with wavy-edged three-inch oval leaves, the most attractive foliage of any of the Hakeas. Young growth is a rich bronze.

H. pugioniformis, Needle Bush, an upright shrub with rather stiff habit. Leaves are sharp and vicious. Flowers are light colored with curious woody seed capsules.

Hardenbergia monophylla, low growing shrub with twisted or twining branches and stiff deep green leaves arranged in solitary fashion along its slender stems. The flowers which often come in pairs are rose, violet, lilac and white, according to the variety.

One of my first assignments was to raise these trees by the thousands and to clear off the chaparral in the level places between the hills. These spaces were plowed and harrowed by a Mexican crew who did not know a word of English. They tried to get out of work by saying "No sabe." I soon put a stop to that by firing a few. After that they "Comprendo mucho" and with a few words and signs we got along splendidly.

In the level areas we were to plant *E. globulus* twelve feet apart one way and fifteen feet the other. To save precious time the men were to step off the distances four steps one way and five in the opposite direction.

In the morning, when everyone was fresh, the strides were a good full length. Towards the end of the afternoon they became shorter and shorter until it was easy to see where we started and finished each day.

Thousands of Sugar Gums were planted on the sloping hills. Here I used several small crews of white men. Some dug holes with picks, others planted the seedlings. Small basins were made around each tree and a man on a water-wagon filled the basins. A few days later, to prevent rapid evaporation, this scooped-out soil was hand cultivated back into place.

I thought we were making great progress but Mr. Scripps had other ideas. When he found out how many flats a day each crew planted he told me to speed things up by giving a bonus for every flat planted beyond that figure. That was our undoing. If the men could not find sufficient soil they stood the small trees between two rocks. Or they would dump whole flats upside down under a large shrub. They were disposing of the trees faster than we could raise them, so that ended the planting.

In addition to all the ornamental trees on the ranch there were acres of lemons, oranges and grapefruit. Also there were several kinds of deciduous fruits such as plums, pears, apricots, peaches, figs, nectarines and a few English walnuts and almonds.

Throughout my six and a half years at Miramar many pleasant things happened and others were sad but I shall always be glad that I came to Southern California when the roads and countryside were not so congested. I feel like the old rancher I tried to talk into buying a truck instead of hauling his produce in a wagon. He said, "I like to go slow so I can watch the flowers and grass grow." Just try to do that today!

Fifty Years Later

In the middle of October of this year I visited Miramar again. It was obvious that the owners would have been forced to abandon this ranch if they had not had San Diego City water. All the dams are bone dry except one which is just a frog pond.

The landscape around the main dwelling has been changed and only that portion has been irrigated. The acreage beyond has had to depend on rainfall which has been very sparse for the last twenty years, so only the hardiest and most drought resistant plants have survived.

As I looked around, the Sugar Gum Eucalyptus reminded me of people I have known. Some had passed on, others were only partly alive but still struggling to keep going. Underneath the trees were thousands of seedlings, a few inches to several feet high. These were growing vigorously, living off the occasional fogs and waiting for the next rainy season.

I found the extensive acacia plantings all dead except for the Black Wattles. Their foliage still hung on but showed severe dryness. The leaves of *A. pycnantha,* Golden or Broad-leaved Wattle, were yellow and shriveled but a good rain would start them growing again. Beneath them were hundreds of seedlings about four feet high. We should plant more of these two attractive Acacias that have shown they can stand severe drought.

The pines looked good. During my time there I raised hundreds of Aleppo Pines. These were planted extensively throughout the western slopes below the main dwelling. Most of them grew well although the needles now look sparse and shrunken. I was surprised that none of them had died.

Of the various types of trees, those that seemed to be in the best condition were *Brachychiton populneus,* commonly known as the Bottle Tree or Kurrajong. Those each side of the road leading to the riding stables looked exceptionally good.

Among the few shrubs that have withstood all these dry years, *Severinia buxifolia,* Chinese Box-orange seems to be the least affected. It has grown vigorously. In spite of the dryness of the foliage it was in full bud. If a good rain comes soon it will be a mass of bloom. This genus should be brought into prominence again.

Others that came through are the Dracaena, Cacti and other succulents, though some of the Crassulas and Haworthias looked extremely dry.

This record shows the vital need for water in Southern California.

TECOMA CAPENSIS

(continued from page 13)

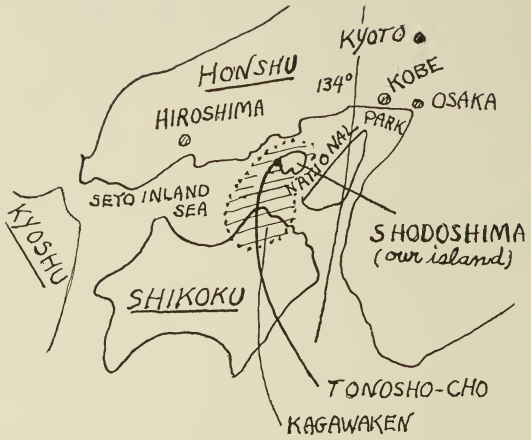
The flowering is bright scarlet to orange-red, a much enlarged honey suckle cluster for form and arrangement of the stalked head. Expect a long period of flowering, beginning probably in early October and extending into May, halting only in deep cold . . . hardy generally, wood and foliage in ten to fifteen degrees of frost. The plant long was known as *Tecoma capensis* and is still used occasionally under that old botanical term. Other well-known and similar segregates of Tecoma will be found under Stenolobium, Campsis, Podranea and Doxantha. Some, as in case of the latter are purely vining.

"Si Padre!
Something nice has happened!"

Enclosed please find .....
My Christmas present to the
GATEWAY TO THE PRESIDIO FUND

Signed .....
MAIL TO ABOVE, 3631 FIFTH AVE.
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92103.

A FRIENDSHIP GARDEN on JAPAN'S INLAND SEA ISLAND



Readers of the letters that follow will join the editor in hoping that Mr. Yashiroda will consent to serve as a staff correspondent from his area. It it seldom that one who knows and loves plants has such marked ability to express himself in another language. We are eager to learn more of his problems and his successes and are sure other gardeners will wish to send suitable seeds to help with the development of his Acclimatization Garden.

The correspondence began thus:

IN SEPTEMBER Mr. Jerabek received the following letter from Yashiroda Acclimatization Garden in Japan:

Dear Sir,

Your article on "Street Trees" and "Plant Tour of the Zoo" in the California Garden was wonderful and informative. It led me to venture to write to you.

I am eager to try and establish the following at our Acclimatization Garden and should be grateful if you would spare for me a few seeds or let me know the names and addresses of the nurseries and seedsmen from where I could be obtain the FRESH seeds or seedlings. I had some seeds from a California seedsmen but always those were rotten or old when arrived as far as I had experienced bitterly.

Our garden is situated on as island, Shodoshima, in the Seto Inland Sea, Southwestern Japan. *Dracaena draco* is tender in our Garden; *Melalenca leucadendron* dies back to the ground annually; *Casimiros edulis* is slightly damaged in winter but alright; *Calodendron capense, Eugenia jambos, Agonis flexuosa, Angophora costata, Araucaria bidwillii* and *Erythea edulis* you mentioned are quite hardy. It will give you some idea of our climate. Seeds I would like are:

Brassaia actinophylla (Octopus Tree); *Chorisia speciosa.*

If there are, at anytime, any seeds or others we can send you from here, please be kind enough to let me know.

Yours very truly,
Kan Yashiroda

Mr. Jerabek answered the letter and passed it on to the editor who also wrote to Mr. Yashiroda sending him some seeds and saying she would print his appeal in the magazine. She also said she was curious to know how he had heard about the publication.

On October 28, came the following answer:

Tonosho-cho,
Kagawa-ken.
Japan.

Dear Editor,

It was a great pleasure and rather surplise to have your letter in which you told me that you have, so thoughtfully and kindly, going to publish my appeal to your CALIFORNIA GARDEN. It is also so kind of you to part for me your seeds of *Markhamia lutea* and a clipping on it. I am delighted with these and most grateful. I should be tried and establish it at my little Acclimatization Garden. Judging from the writing, it would be on the borderline of hardiness at our locale—my garden is situated on an island called Shodoshima in the Seto Inland Sea. It seems to behave just as *Jacaranda mimosifolia* on the hardiness and perhaps unlike in "stubborness" of coming to flower. Trying anything in new or promising, is always interesting and worth to trouble with — for years. Many thanks for giving me to have such an opportunity for you.

Messrs, Maruzen & Co., Tokyo, the largest and possibly oldest importers of foreign periodicals and books issue their Subscription Catalogue of Foreign Periodicals annually. In the catalogue for 1963 publications, I found your CALIFORNIA GARDEN and subscribed for a year. That is why I gave you "a little bit curious." Thankful to your most interesting and informative magazine, I have learned and had informed much about the sub-tropical plants in which I am devoted my work. I could not, I am extremely regret, afford for the further subscription but at the earliest accasion comes I assure you that I should be continue to be a subscriber to yours.

I could not locate La Jolla on my maps but I guess yours is not far away from San Diego. On the way back to home from New York where I was invited and stayed some time at the Brookline Botanic Garden in 1955, our DC6 stopped, on way from Tucson-Phoenix where I had seen the growth and work on the desert areas—to Los Angeles, at San Diego, but few minutes. So I had not any pleasure to see the street trees and garden plants. If

I had seen your CALIFORNIA GARDEN before that and learned that a tremendous number of sub-tropical plants are tried in San Diego and its vicinities, I should be certainly stayed some time to study and observe many things, if I could afford for it. Every plantsman's desire is limitless but man's ability is limited!

Your article "Epiphyllums: an Interview with Dr. J. W. Troxel" was very informative to me. When I was young, my grandmother—poor Grandma! she had gone long time ago—cherished an old clump of Zygocactus and some 30-inch-high Epiphyllum, older than my age then, were an admiration to me. But never I have succeed to grow any to such an dimension and growth, though I tried various kinds having from a Belgian cactus dealer many, many years ago.

Our island is one of the driest places in Japan. Salt industry has been developed for many centuries and almost only place the olive industry has a little measure of success in Japan. Besides my poor treatment and lack of tenderness, it is, I think, one reason why we are not successful for fully beauty. But your writing for gardeners who live in hot dry climate encourage me. At the very foot of some 40 year old *Phoenix canariensis*—I had planted it when I was young—Zygocactus is growing nicely and should be tried on the stubs of the other palms—that one has no stubs but clean, so to speak—as you suggested. On the clean straight trunk of the Arecastrum, Blood Palm, I am growing several Japanese epiphytic orchids which are clasped very firmly to it with their succurent or dry slender roots. Lovely things they are!

It is astonishing to know that there are some Epiphytums attaining more than 12 feet high which tempted me so much since I read yours. Some day I wish to try some as with *Sobralia macrantha* orchid which is my ambition to grow it fully at my garden.

Any plant on our borderline of hardiness is interesting and the ones anxious to try to be acclimatized to ours—to brighten our land which is still far poor in growing plants from other lands—far from works in the U.S. I am grateful for any.

If there are at any time anythings that I can do for you here in Japan please be kind enough to let me know.

I am sorry I had been chatterboxed and gave you spent your valuable time. Beg your pardon.

Yours sincerely,
Kan Yashiroda

BOOKS

Reviewed by ALICE MARY GREER

Indoor Gardening Handbook: **Editors of Flower Grower. Arco Publishing Company, 1958. 144 pages, $2.50.**

NO HOME is complete without a few house plants. In this book we learn about hundreds of plants that are being grown in the average home under average conditions and we catch a glimpse of that world of pleasure and satisfaction that comes from the systematic cultivation of house plants.

The text is written in simple, nontechnical language; is lavishly illustrated and lives up to its caption, "Do It Yourself Series," for it gives all the information needed to choose plants, to select a method of cultivation and to successfully care for them.

Growing plants indoors can be every bit as engrossing and rewarding as gardening in the open. There are no tricks nor secrets to it, as house plants have the same needs as their outdoor kin—light, moisture, and warmth. If these requirements are met in proper measure and you have selected those plants that fit naturally into the conditions of your home—light, humidity, temperature—you will have fun and the results will be successful.

In detail the authors give techniques used by the experts; devote a section to the growing of African violets, begonias, gloxinias, achimenes, abutilon, geraniums, amaryllis, winter bulbs; another section to fifty common foliage plants; one to "oddities," including bonsai, basement grown plants, terrariums, brandy snifters, bottles, gift plants; another on greenhouse and porch gardening.

Step-by-step instructions and pictures help you to choose your plants, water them, fertilize, prune, locate, spray and propagate.

An Easy Guide to Artificial Light-Gardening: **Vernon Johnston and Winifred Carriere. Heathside Press, 1964. 192 pages, $4.50.**

Gardening under lights offers a reasonable certainty of success even to those who have never grown a blade of grass. It is a solution to the problem of the window-sill gardeners whose number is increasing due to the influx of apartment dwellers in California.

The authors are experienced and impatient gardeners who for nine years have grown plants under lights, and since plants cannot live by light alone, they have included in their book first-hand information about soils, and soil substitutes, watering, feeding and making a plant garden attractive enough to be a decorative asset to the home.

Scientists have isolated the pigment that governs the reaction of plant life to light, phytochrome. Knowledge of its existence has opened the way to an entirely new concept of horticulture.

House plants, like animals, need time to make use of the foods they have manufactured for growth, and only when the light is gone and night falls, naturally or induced, do they have an opportunity for cell growth. Colors of light affect cell growth; red light stimulates bloom and vegetative growth; blue light regulates the respiratory system and makes the plants grow bushy. Some plants normally flower in short days, eight to ten hours of light; some in long days, fourteen to sixteen hours. Such dark and light periods can be created artificially—man-made sunshine, man-made darkness.

The authors in great detail describe the necessary equipment for regulating the lives of artificially lighted plants and give directions for its use. Furthermore, they insist that there is not only pleasure in light-gardening but profit commercially; that there is a great future for the method; that we must experiment with lights, with timing, with food and water, with propagation and growth, with new materials and untried places.

"Will light-gardening have any important application to travel into outer space and other planets? Plants are now being grown on submarines; under the ice in an arctic encampment, and in a Texas home fifty feet under ground. Can a light-garden supply food to sustain life in a bomb shelter?"

Part II of the book lists and discusses plants for maximum light, plants for less intense light, plants for the gourmet, and gives hints for keeping records. Altogether rather an interesting book.

A Calendar of Care

☐ CAMELLIAS

The Sasanqua

The Sasanqua is a native of Japan and is the second largest group of camellias grown in the United States. There are over one hundred varieties. Even though they are greatly surpassed in numbers by the Japonicas, they nonetheless comprise a very important item among camellia growers. Their habit of flowering early in the season (October to January) with an abundance of blossoms and their fine, glossy, closely spaced foliage place them in a class of their own among evergreen shrubs for the garden. Picture these features cascading over a redwood hanging basket, and you can see why this plant is unsurpassed in its beauty for this application.

Sasanquas for Hanging Baskets

THE planting of camellias in hanging baskets is a new method of displaying the beauty of this aristocratic evergreen shrub. There are certain varieties of the Sasanqua and Camellia Species which have a growth habit suitable for this purpose.

PALE MOONLIGHT — The blossoms are a pale orchid-pink, rabbit eared, semi-double form with excellent texture. Foliage is small with low spreading growth habit.

PINK SNOW — The blossoms are clear light pink, anemone form. The plant has a low spreading growth habit.

SHOWA-NO-SAKAE — The blossoms are soft pink, semi-double to peony form. The growth is slow, low and compact.

SHOWA-SUPREME — The blossoms are deep clear pink, full peony form. It has a vigorous spreading growth habit. This is a seedling of Showa-No-Sakae and has proven to be superior to its parent. The foliage is much heavier than Showa-No-Sakae.

TANYA — The blossoms are deep rose pink, single form. The foliage is glossy dark green with excellent spreading bushy growth habit.

WHITE DOVES — The blossoms are white, semi-double to loose peony form. The growth is vigorous and low spreading.

WHITE FRILLS — The blossoms are white, semi-double form. The growth is vigorous and low spreading.

CAMELLIA SPECIES

The genus camellia is devided into more than 80 "species" differing from one another by floral and leaf characteristics. The species in turn have produced, horticulturally, about five thousand different named varieties or cultivars nearly all having japonica, sasanqua or reticulata ancestry. Three of these species, like some sasanqua varieties, have a growth habit which is suitable for hanging baskets.

C. fraterna — The blossoms are white, small single form opening in clusters on graceful, arching branches. The foliage is small with pendulous growth habit.

C. lutchuensis — The blossoms are white, small, with a definite fragrance. The foliage is small and sharp pointed.

C. salicifolia — The blossoms are white, small, single form. The growth habit is low and bushy with very long, narrow foliage.

Book of Christmas Projects
Designs for a Family Christmas;
Ernestine Coffey and Dorothy Minton; Hearthside Press, 1964. 160 pp. $4.95.

On the eve of going to press comes a unique book, full of the spirit of the old-time Christmas that was centered around the whole family and their preparations for the season. This is in every respect a do-it-yourself book, a potpourri of projects for old and young; creating decorations, cooking, entertaining, praying, gathering materials, wrapping gifts, staging shows; a book for garden-clubbers, baby sitters, grandmothers, children and homemakers. Step-by-step pictures and illustrations accompanying full directions make every suggested activity fool-proof.

Calendars For Christmas

Let Hearthside Press help you remember dates, engagements and notices during 1965. They have put out three very attractive day-by-day gift calendars with ample spaces for notations; ***Home and Garden Calendar; African Violet Calendar (Including Gloxinias and Other Gesneriads); Hostess Calendar*** with party record, menus and recipes. You should have some of these for yourself and friends. **Hearthside Press, New York 16.**

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Hanging Basket Culture

SIZE—A twelve inch square, seven or eight inches deep with slightly tapered sides, redwood basket makes an excellent container for a gallon size plant. The basket should have a minimum of four, half inch holes in the bottom to provide good drainage.

POTTING SOIL — A mixture of fifty per cent Canadian or German peat moss, thirty per cent of good garden loam (no clay) and twenty per cent fine sand makes a good soil mixture. You can also plant them in one hundred per cent peat moss if you want to lighten the basket. The peat moss should be moist, regardless of how it is used before planting.

LOCATION — These plants can be grown in full sun. However, the foliage will not hold its dark green color and would also dry out too soon in hanging baskets. The ideal place is in a lath house, under trees or patio where they can get approximately fifty per cent sun or filtered light. All camellias must have sufficient sun or filtered light to make good buds.

WATERING — The soil should never be allowed to dry out completely. The frequency of watering will depend upon soil mix, location and weather conditions. It is also as important not to over water, since air can not penetrate water saturated soil and the plant root system will rot from being too wet over a long period of time. One method of determining soil moisture is to scratch the soil with your finger and if it is moist slightly below the surface, the plant does not need watering even though the surface appears to be dry. When you do water it is much better to saturate the soil and allow sufficient amount of water to drain out bottom of container to keep the salts flushed out of the root system.

FERTILIZING & PRUNING — Fertilizing does not start until March. Pruning should be accomplished as soon as plants are through blooming and before the new growth starts. January and February is a good time in Southern California. The long spindly growth should be cut-back to make the plant more compact and bushy. Also the pruning should keep the plant symmetrical for good appearance. High branches can be pulled down by hanging wooden clothes pins on end of branches (do not clamp jaws of pin to branch, so that it will pinch the stem). Use the recessed area just back of the clamping tips to close around them. The clothes pins can be removed just as soon as the branches remain pendulous.

William T. De France
San Diego Camellia Society

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☐ ORCHIDS

WINTER is only a few weeks away officially. Orchids, in common with most other plants, generally take a breathing spell after giving their all during the warmer months. Things will be a little quiet, but if you think that you can sit back and relax because of this, you had better think again. Two A.M. on a frosty morning is a rather poor time to waken and remember all the things you had intended to do to prepare for cold weather. Better make up a check list, and *do it now.*

Greenhouse Care

Apart from the plants, the greenhouse itself is our first concern. If you are attempting to create a separate and distinct climate for your warm growing Orchids, do it in an efficient manner. Equipment for climatic control is all very well and good if it functions properly, but it has a way of lying down on the job after six months or so of disuse. Loose or broken panes of glass can account for a considerable heat loss, thus materially increasing heating cost. Tighten and reputty all loose glass, and replace any damaged sections. While you have ladders in place scrub the accumulated dust and debris from the roof glass, at the same time removing as much of the summer shading as you think practical. Give your plants all the light that they can take without burning; you will find your pay-off in stronger growths, heavier root systems and as a consequence more and better flowers.

Your heating equipment has been idle for some months now, and probably needs a good overhauling. Make sure that the vents are clear and unobstructed; clean and oil any moving parts paying particular attention to the thermostat, since the efficiency of any heating system depends in large measure on its controls. The circulating fans are probably a little tired too, and could use a good detergent bath. Blades and screens will have a build up of grime and algae and may show rust here and there. After cleaning, wipe dry with a light coat of oil or kerosene as a further rust deterrent. Check out the electrical wiring too, to assure that there are no exposed wires. Valves, switches and solenoids should be looked over carefully, since the humid condition

prevailing in an Orchid house frequently means built-in trouble.

It is impossible in an article such as this to go into great detail or specifics regarding the culture of Orchids, however a few generalizations (always dangerous, I know) may be of help to newcomers to the greatest of all hobbies. The following notes, therefore, are intended as rough guides for the next few months.

CATTLEYAS are well into their Fall surge of bloom. They are less active in growth, and with less light and daytime heat will need less water. Pots don't dry out as rapidly, and too much water at the roots will do a first rate job of rotting them off. Pot watering about once in seven to ten days should be about right providing that *humidity is kept high.* If plants are indoors under normal, comfortable living conditions, this will not be sufficient. Plants do not want to dry out to the dehydrating point between waterings, but neither do they want to be continually wet. 'When in doubt — Don't' is still a good rule of thumb. If given their choice, they would rather be too dry than too wet. Feed with every second watering using a balanced fertilizer. Liquid fish emulsion is an old standby, and is still hard to beat. Hold off on repotting unless the condition of the plant or the potting medium demands immediate attention. The Cattleya alliance should be repotted just before a new growth cycle commences, indicated by the appearance of new roots emerging from the base of the forward bulb. This will normally be in the warmer months. If, for some reason, a Cattleya *must* be repotted now, go ahead, but keep the plant a little on the dry side until it is reestablished.

DENDROBIUMS are in flower right now, and they should have the same care as Cattleyas while they are in bloom. After flowers are gone they will want to rest for a couple of months. During this resting period water just enough to keep the canes from shriveling. No fertilizer while they are at rest, but pick up a full feeding and watering program when new roots in Spring are about one inch long.

VANDAS want the lightest, warmest part of the greenhouse all year long. They never rest, and can be fed and watered heavily as often as they are thoroughly dry. Their only water storage mechanism is the thick, fleshy root, but they cannot stand wet feet. Rapid drainage is essential.

CYPRIPEDIUMS are grown mostly outside with the Cymbidiums, but their care during blooming season is quite different. Cyps are semi-dormant while in flower, and have little use or liking for fertilizer. They have no bulbs however, and must not be allowed to dry out. A loose, porous compost of bark and oak leaves suits them, and retains enough moisture without becoming soggy. Dividing and repotting is best done in Spring.

CYMBIDIUMS must be kept moving during the Winter months, even though growth has slowed down. Feed seedlings and small plants with a high nitrogen fertilizer, plants of blooming size with high phosphorous food. Never run dry, but assure complete drainage. Give them maximum light intensity and keep a wary eye out for snails and slugs. Bloom spikes will be showing by now, and these should be trained and staked for best effect. Don't overlook the possibility of rain and hail, and provide shelter from these elements if you expect unblemished flowers.

Byron Geer
S.D. County Orchid Society

STATEMENT REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, JULY 2, 1946, AND JUNE 1, 1960 (74 stat 208) SHOWING THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION OF CALIFORNIA GARDEN, published bi-monthly at San Diego, California, for December 1964.

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☐ CACTUS

THIS IS a good time to look for the eye-catching Aloes, the flowers of which are most colorful; the Red-hot Poker spikes two feet tall and the graceful red flowered candelabras, rising high from the center of a rosette of large leaves. This display of bloom makes the Aloes of special ornamental value, not only for their showy flowers but because they come into bloom in winter when most of the other flowering plants are dormant.

Probably for this reason and the fact that some of the species are medicinal, Aloes were known to the Greeks and Romans, and since have become naturalized in certain locations along the Mediterranean. In North America they can be found growing quite naturally in the hills where the Spanish established missions.

The Aloes are native to South Africa, and though sometimes confused with the Western Hemisphere Agaves, they differ in that the leaves are usually soft and fleshy, whereas the leaves of the Agaves are usually tough and fibrous. The Aloes are a genus of the Liliaceas Family, the Agaves a genus of the Amaryllidaceas Family.

Aloes need no special care, will grow in almost any soil, as long as they have good drainage. They are easily propagated by dividing clumps, germinating seeds, and cuttings.

Suited for any size garden, adaptable for any area of display whether in a tiny rock garden bordering a patio, or a large yard surrounded by a high fence or wall, the Aloes come in assorted sizes to help round out the effect you wish to make. For background planting, try the shrubby *Aloe arborescens,* or tree-like *Aloe africana* or *Aloe ferox,* all of which grow quite tall. The *Aloe arborescens* grows as wide as it does tall so allow for this middle-aged spread ahead of time. For closer viewing the gold-spined *Aloe nobilis* and Mitre *Aloe mitriformis* are popular choices for contrast with the Tiger *Aloe variegata,* giving a range of color from gold edged bright green to marbled dark green leaves. Show off the flowers of the Coral *Aloe striata* against a fence of redwood or a rock. This is the species that bears its coral-orange flowers on a candelabra-like stem, and truly creates a center of attention while in bloom.

For your close-up borders, plant the *Aloe brevifolia* whose gray-green rosettes are ¾ inch in diameter, as is the Crocodile *Aloe globosa.* Add to your collection the *Aloe aristata,* known as the Lace Aloe, because of its distinct curled hair-like teeth outlining each leaf.

Most of the Aloes like the sunshine, but remember to give the variegated leafed ones a little shade. Protect, by planting in a sheltered place, those which are tender to frost.

Helen Marie Steger
San Diego Cactus and
Succulent Society

☐ BEGONIAS

THIS IS the time of year that the begonias—most of them, anyway —are in their resting period so they need a minimum of care. Most of the watering is attended to by the rains — we hope. However, if the rain is reluctant, as it often is, watering must be done but to a lesser degree than was necessary when the plants were growing as even during rest they should not be allowed to dry out.

During the dreary rainy times it is wise to see that fallen leaves, or other debris, do not cling to the living parts of the plants as this can cause rotting of the healthy sections with which they come in contact.

The rains can produce over- watering, but if your planting medium is loose and porous, the excess water of rain should not cause any ill effects; on the contrary, it is wonderful for washing away the excess salts that may have built up on the inside of the pots.

Feeding may be done all through the year but a low nitrogen type of fertilizer is preferred during this time —however, it is perfectly safe to discontinue the feeding, altogether, for the next few months if you wish.

Of course, during this time our weather often provides us with periods of quite warm, dry days and quite chilly nights. This is the time for close attention to prevent excessive drying.

If frost or freeze warnings should appear, protect the plants as much as possible — even covering by sheets of newspaper will help a bit — and hope for the best.

Try to find some of the so-called "Christmas" begonias in the florist shop or nursery. As compared to the other types, they are not inexpensive, but a good plant will give you many weeks of enjoyment in your home. You may not be able to keep the plant over until the next year, but perhaps its short life will be worth your while.

Margaret M. Lee
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DAHLIAS

ANYONE who can grow geraniums, sweet peas, or tomatoes — or anything else — can grow dahlias. Just plant them and give them ordinary care.

With just a wee bit more than ordinary care the average gardener can grow exhibition dahlias — two inchers if he likes poms, four to six inchers for "florist" types, and eye-buggers as big as 15 to 17 inches if he wants to startle even himself.

First, the gardener must know what he wants in the way of final results. Then he buys planting roots that will produce that kind of results.

The way to do that is to obtain catalogs from dahlia specialist and/or the large seed companies which usually offer some of the recent introductions. From the descriptions in the catalogs, or by names, it is easy to order just the dahlias wanted.

Right now is the time to write for the catalogs. Start by writing cards to all the suppliers for whom you can find addresses.

What are good exhibition varieties? Here are some of the best, selected from the top winners at the nation's 1964 shows, including the San Diego show:

Pompons under 2 inches — Beatrice, pink; Willo's Violet, purple; Mrs. J. Telfer, white; Mimosa, yellow; Master Michael, orange; Hilde, red; Crossfield Ebony and Moorplace dark red; Robert Holmes and Margaret Williams, lavender.

Balls — Rothesay Superb, red 3½ inches; Rondkop, autumn yellow 4 inches; Chic, purple 4 inches; Pat N Dee, white 5 inches; Dottie D, purplish blend 6 inches.

Miniatures, 4 inches or less — Little Mermaid, white semi-cactus; Preference, pink cactus; Dr. John Grainger, orange formal decorative; Arabian Knight, dark red formal; Johnnie Casey, white and red formal bi-color; Hazel Harper, San Diego's own pink blend cactus.

Florist types, 4 to 6 inches — Doris Day, dark red cactus; Grace, pink cactus; Orchid Princess, white and purple blend semi-cactus; Southern Beauty, dark blend formal; Peach Blend, peachy pink formal; Fascinating, pinkish blend cactus; Desert Gold, yellow semi-cactus.

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Mediums, 6 to 8 inches — Sterling Silver, white formal originated and shown first in San Diego, on the market the first time in 1965; Ruth M, white cactus also a new 1965 San Diego introduction; First Lady, yellow formal top winner the last five years, from San Diego; Juanita, dark red cactus; Golden Heart, flame semi-cactus; Miss North Sydney, lavender and white blend semi-cactus, a top winner in the East in 1964; Wagshall's Goldkrone, golden autumn cactus; Windlassie, white informal.

Large, 8 to 12 inches — Kidd's Climax, pink and yellow blend formal; Jocondo, dark red informal; Nagel's Solidite, pink cactus; Lavengro, lavender informal; Mary Elizabeth, red semi-cactus; Arab Queen, yellow and pink blend semi-cactus; Surprise, pink semi-cactus; Mrs. Hester A. Pape, dark red informal; Croyden Masterpiece, autumn informal; Orange Majesty, orange informal:

Larger, 10 to 13 and 14 inches — Jody Gregory, pink informal originated in San Diego; Kenya, autumn informal; Giant Beauty, dark blend informal.

Largest, 12 to 17⅞ inches — Lula Pattie, a San Diego white informal that has won more biggest-in-show awards all over the world the last two or three years than any other dahlia; Emory Paul, lavender formal, grown to 15¾ inches by the writer to win biggest in show at the 1964 Orange County show in Costa Mesa, and to 17⅞ by 11½ inches deep for the world's record by Max Anders of Morro Bay, in 1963.

If it is not size that the gardener wants, but something that is spectacular and different, he might try a black dahlia — no kidding, so dark red that it looks black from a distance of six or so feet: Black Monarch, 10 inches or so informal. Or, Arabian Knight, 4-inch formal. Or, Crossfield Ebony or Moorplace, pompon under 2 inches.

Maybe he would like a black and white striped dahlia? Easy. It would be Tartan, 7 inch bi-color informal.

Or a large dahlia that resembles something like a pincushion, Andries Wonder, light blend of yellow and pink. Or a smaller "pin cushion" of dark red, about 4 inches, Comet (anemone type).

For novelties that will stop traffic, how about collarettes? These are dahlias with open centers and only one row of ray florets, most popularly red or purple, which have one or more rows of petaloids usually white or of a different color, forming a collar around the center. One of the arrangers at the Floral Association late summer show described them as like large eyes with white eyelashes.

Best collarettes are Cottontail, Fandango, LaCierva, Libretto, and Woody Woodpecker.

If all of these don't give the gardener just what he is looking for, he can hear about the rest of the winners and novelties at meetings of the San Diego County Dahlia Society in the Floral Building the fourth Tuesday night of each month.

Larry Sisk
S.D. County Dahlia Society

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ROSES

THE American Rose Society National Convention and Show was held in Phoenix October 22, 23 and 24. About twenty rosarians from the San Diego area attended. Very gratifying was the showing of San Diego roses. Mrs. Jean Kenneally brought back three major national trophies, the Duke of Warwick Urn for the best six All America Rose Selection blooms, the Horace McFarland Trophy for the best seven hybrid teas and the bronze medal of the National Rose Society of Great Britain for the best three grandifloras. The Duke of Warwick Urn is valued at $10,000.00. Bill Hillman, of the Los Angeles area won the sweepstakes award and the Pacific Southwest Trophy among others and Queen of the Show was won by a San Francisco exhibitor. All this is but another indication that California is the best place in the world to grow prize-winning roses.

Now is the time to start thinking about new roses for 1965. Instead of repeating detailed directions of selection and planting, please refer to back issues of this magazine and allow me here to list roses both old and new which have done well in this area. The good new ones in my opinion are:

Mr. Lincoln; HT; Brand new—looks good—AARS

Camelot; GF; Brand new—looks good—AARS

Granada; HT; Excellent — mildews some—AARS

Columbus Queen; HT; Excellent show rose

Eiffel Tower; HT; Almost too vigorous; Excellent

Thanksgiving; HT; Very vigorous

Jack Frost; HT; Best white—vigorous

Grand Slam; HT; Excellent dark red

Summer Sunshine; HT; Very good yellow

Duet; HT; Probably most vigorous free blooming rose available

Royal Highness; HT; Classic Form; excellent; AARS

Invitation; HT; Vigorous; unusual color

Suzan Ball; Fl; Tall for a floribunda; excellent

Mt. Shasta; GR; Best white grandflora

Ole'; GR; Striking color; highly recommended

Ginger FI; Good color; blooms well

The following roses are well known in this area as good performers and are readily available;

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Grandifloras; Buccaneer, El Capitan, Montezuma, Pink Parfait, Queen Elizabeth, Roundelay, Starfire.

Floribundas; Circus, Golden Slippers, Heat Wave, Lilibet, Little Darling, Rosenelf, Tom Tom, Winifred Coulter.

There are many other excellent rose varieties and in addition to the above listing, take the advice of your nurseryman, enjoy the new Fall catalogues and good luck. Bare root roses should be planted during January in this part of the country although they can go in from November through March.

A technique I first tried about five years ago is getting a lot of attention in rose literature lately and the accumulating evidence is supporting my claims that bare root roses start better, bloom earlier and are healthier if they are first planted in five gallon cans and then transplanted to their permanent spot in the garden towards the end of the Summer. Empty five gallon cans are available at your nursery or in limited quantities from restaurant kitchens, etc. Get the ones which are easily cut with tin shears. Punch at least four drainage holes around the bottom edge with a beer can opener, paint them a flat dark color.

As a planting mixture I use garden soil and planter mix about half and half. Since drainage is excellent in cans, ordinary sawdust or wood chips can be used instead of the more expensive planter mix. Plant the roses with your mixture worked well in among the roots and pressed down tightly with your fingers. Leave about two inches of space in the top of the can to hold water and fertilizer solution and have the bud union well above the soil level with the root crown just covered. Then cover the soil with an inch or so of pure planter mix or sawdust to act as a mulch, step back and watch it grow. Roses in cans should be watered every two or three days and watered about once a week with a dilute solution of liquid fertilizer such as Country Squire.

The advantages of preliminary planting in cans are that drainage is no problem, the habit of a new plant can be observed before deciding where to plant it permanently and flowers are available sooner for exhibitors, if you want them for this purpose.

Dr. Donald A. Wilson
President,
San Diego Rose Society

☐ FUCHSIAS

IN SUNNY sheltered, sometimes frost-free gardens of our American Southwest we may have fuchsias blooming all winter, as most San Diegans know. Though not enforced here by snow and ice, this annual dormancy, ordained by Nature, is a wisely provided rest period for the welfare of the plants. With water and food reduced to a safe minimum in midwinter, fuchsias will be ready for better growth and flowering as spring comes on.

Plants in cold or exposed places should be mulched well. If there is tender autumn growth, perhaps from fall pruning, windbreaks and other protection from winter cold may be needed.

In winter as well as summer, basket and other container plants must be checked for *proper moisture.* We have found metal liners best to conserve the moisture we thought was there in chilly damp weather, when it was not. Container gardening has increased greatly here. The plants are easily rearranged for better exposure to sun, light and shade or for unusual artistic effects. Transient gardeners find them convenient for moving also. However, soil and plant food must be replaced when needed and the container kept in good repair. Plants in pots cannot be forgotten like those in the ground.

Despite the tempting first warm days in January, fuchsias should not be pruned until all danger of frost is past. Killing frosts, even freezing, may come in early February, especially in low cold outlying areas of San Diego County. Although fuchsias sometimes make surprising recovery from frost damage, they may be killed or permanently damaged, so it is best to prune in late February.

It is a good plan to prepare humus-building soils before planting time, especially if manure is being added. Fuchsias are not fussy about their food requirements, beyond a good moist slightly acid soil. They are very adaptable to most conditions but few plants respond more pleasingly to rich humus planting mixes. One-third good water-absorbing leaf mold, one-third cow manure and one-third rich topsoil make a fine mixture for planting coupled with the well-known fish-emulsions for fortnightly feedings through blooming time.

Since fuchsias will not be ready for pruning or propagation until February, now is the time to plan a garden such as you may have seen or dreamed of, one that could be a joy forever and an aid to health, as we found in a recent convalescence. It could be a garden for almost day and night living during warm weather, with places to sit or nap under trees, pleasant paths to stroll, interspersed with many varieties of fuchsias, giant ferns, philodendrons and other foliage plants, and bright fuchsia baskets in the shady nooks.

Browse around the nurseries for some of the many fine fuchsias that have been developed by more than a dozen famous hybridists. Make your dream plan come true by choosing from hundreds of colorful varieties; upright types for trees or espaliers, semi-trailing or trailing varieties for bushes or baskets. These plant pictures are worth planning for and are pretty sure to bring their own reward.

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San Diego Fuchsia Society

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The California Garden

Published Monthly by the San Diego Floral Association

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Vol. 6 **POINT LOMA, CALIFORNIA, DECEMBER, 1914** **No. 6**

A MERRY CHRISTMAS to you all. May you be able to pay your debts, so your creditors can pay theirs. May the tourist be like an aphis plague in the land. May you remember how long and hard we have toiled at this magazine and act accordingly.

If none of these things come to pass, we still say, "Be Merry!" To be otherwise does you no good and is most unpleasant to those around you. This is a delectable land; you can rejoice because it rains and smile because the sun shines, and it takes only a small-bore optimist to have a good time. Once more, a "Merry Xmas."

The Early Bird at the Exposition

THE CABRILLO bridge is worth while whatever it cost and however it was built. The view from it both ways is disappointing. To the south the gas works and an awful straight line of a grade crossing somewhere this side of it are very dominating, and the canyon is too wide and too straight for the picturesque. On the other side it is almost as uninteresting but fortunately lacks the glaring offense enumerated across the way. Here the whole scheme is so big that nothing but mass planting will have any effect, and it is certainly open to doubt whether any planting will be much more effective than the wild brush which gives at a distance a velvety appearance without hiding the outlines. Of course this refers to the aspect from the bridge. The view from the bottom of the canyon will be vastly superior.

Wartime England in 1914

California Garden has a correspondent in West Hartlepool, England, where the recent bombardment took place. A letter has been received, which was written before the visit of the German fleet, however, in which our friend, Mr. W. C. King, tells of his success with a package of Rosecroft dahlia seed, sent to him last Spring. He says:

"They turned out exceedingly well. Several of them were fine big blooms, particularly one very large, fine curled pink cactus, which has been named "G. T. Keene." Another magnificent bright scarlet peony we have named "A. D. Robinson" and a beautiful white satin peony has been named "Miss Sessions." These are the only ones which we have named; the others are known only by the type, etc. All my friends are delighted with them, and the general cry is, "Where did you get the seed", and "Have you any more left?"

"We were not able to have our chrysanthemum show last month as all the big halls are taken up by troops. We are on the northeast coast of England, and a great number of troops are kept here in case they are needed. It is a terrible business, this war, and we shall be glad when it is all over and done with. A small show of chrysanthemums raised a total of £90 for the Belgian refugees. The first two blooms were sold for £10 and the first two leeks also brought £10."

New Palms on Sixth St.

The rapidity with which the new section of Sixth street, from Date to Juniper, was planted with Cocos Plumosa palms during one week, certainly is a credit to Park Superintendent, Mr. John G. Morley. This new section will look fine during next summer and the patient waiting while the street was being reconstructed will have been quite forgotten.

San Diego Floral Association

FLORAL BUILDING, BALBOA PARK

(Under the sponsorship of
The Park and Recreation Dept., City of San Diego)

Third Tuesday, Floral Building, 8 p.m.
Pres. Mr. Stanley W. Miller 444-8141
1590 E. Chase Ave., El Cajon

FLOWER ARRANGERS' GUILD
First Thursday, Floral Building, 7:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. John Casale 465-0997
9372 Loren Drive, La Mesa

AFFILIATE MEMBERS 1964

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BEGONIA SOCIETY
Third Friday, Homes of Members, 10 a.m.
President: Mrs. Clayton Lee 296-4845
3911 St. James Pl., S.D. 3
Rep. Dir.: Mrs. Anuta Lynch 298-1400
202 Lewis, S.D. 3

ASTRO GARDEN CLUB
First Wednesday, Floral Bldg., 8 p.m.
President: Arnold W. Carroll 276-1579
1911 Erie St., S.D.
Rep. Dir.: J. E. Henderson 274-1754
3503 Yosemite, S.D. 9

CIVIC CENTER GARDEN CLUB
Meets every Thursday 12m to 1 p.m.
Garden House, Grape and 101 Civic Center
President: James Saraceno 274-2628
3366 Lloyd St., S.D. 17
Rep. Betty Elias 415-3385
8121 Hudson Drive, S.D. 19

CONVAIR GARDEN CLUB
Second Wed., Floral Building, 7:30 p.m.
President: Danny Blum 582-2983
4730 Baylor Drive, S.D. 15
Rep. Henry F. Boyd 264-1283
6581 Broadway, S.D. 14

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF SAN DIEGO CO.
Fourth Monday, Floral Bldg., 7:30 p.m.
President: James A. Kirk 748-3870
15131 Espola Road, Poway
Rep. Roy C. Lawton 422-1775
719 First Avenue, Chula Vista

MISSION GARDEN CLUB
Meets First Monday 8 p.m.
Barbour Hall, Pershing and University

MISSION GARDEN CLUB
Pres.: Grace E. Brown 466-5638
7865 Quince St., La Mesa
Rep.: Julia Bohe 282-7422
3145 No. Mt. View Dr., S.D.

ORGANIC GARDENING CLUB
Third Friday, Floral Building, 7:30 p.m.
Pres.: Kenneth E. Thacker 442-6356
1635 Grove Road, El Cajon
Rep. Mrs. Hermine Hilkowitz 296-2282
1756 Mission Cliffs Dr., S. D. 16

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB
First Friday, Silver Gate Savings &
Loan Bldg., Ocean Beach, 10:00 a.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Clyde Neal 583-2776
5459 Del Cerro Blvd., S.D. 20
Rep.: Mrs. Jack White 222-1344
1019 Cordova, S.D. 7

SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY
First Saturday, Floral Building, 2 p.m.
Pres.: Wm. C. Hoffman 448-0617
981 Bradley Avenue, El Cajon
Rep. Mrs. Beatrice Arnold 282-8144
3436 31st St., San Diego

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY
Second Friday, Floral Building, 7:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Althea Hebert 466-3389
8845 Country Club Pl., Spring Valley
Rep.: Mrs. Lester Crowder 295-5871
3130 Second St., S.D. 3

SD-IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY
Meets 3rd Sunday, Floral Bldg., 2:30 p.m.
Pres: James E. Watkins 728-7337
2695 Los Alisos Dr., Fallbrook
Rep. Mrs. N. R. Carrington 453-3383
6283 Buisson Street, S.D. 22

S. D. CHAPTER CALIF. ASS'N NURSERYMEN
Fourth Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Pres.: Charles Richards
930 Fifth Ave., Chula Vista
Rep. John Basner 273-4636
4731 Conrad Ave., S.D. 17

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY
Fourth Tuesday, Floral Building, 7:30 p.m.
Pres.: Victor Kerley 224-1884
3765 James St., S.D. 6
Rep.: Dr. J. W. Troxell 282-9131
4950 Canterbury Drive, S.D. 16

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY
First Tuesday, Floral Building, 8 p.m.
Pres.: Myron H. Geer 222-2044
3370 Talbot St., S.D. 6
Rep. Myron Geer (above)

SAN DIEGO FUCHSIA SOCIETY
Second Monday, Floral Building, 8 p.m.
President: Mrs. Walter Bunker 281-5027
4721 Bancroft, S.D.
Rep.: Mrs. Mary Bray Watson
2337 Commonwealth, S.D. 4 284-2669

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY
Third Monday, Floral Building, 8 p.m.
Pres.: Dr. Donald A. Wilson 454-0890
8355 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla
Rep.: Mrs. Felix White 264-4440
5282 Imperial Avenue, S.D. 14

SOUTHWESTERN GROUP, JUDGES' COUNCIL

CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
First Wed., Floral Bldg., 10:30 a.m.
Chairman: Mrs. C. W. Benson 274-1626
3640 Crown Point Dr., S.D. 17

OTHER GARDEN CLUBS

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
San Diego Branch
Fourth Monday, Barbour Hall, University
& Pershing, 8 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Leah Jones 284-2514
3734 40th St., S.D. 5
San Miguel Branch
First Wednesday, Youth Center
Lemon Grove, 7:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. J. W. Lowry 463-4762
7452 Roosevelt, Lemon Grove

CARLSBAD GARDEN CLUB
First Friday, VFW Hall, Carlsbad,
1:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Doris Simpson 729-1515
1075 Chinquapin Ave., Carlsbad

CHULA VISTA FUCHSIA CLUB
Second Tuesday, Norman Park Recreation
Center, 7:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. William Hook 422-6322
133 I, Chula Vista

CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB
Meets Third Wednesday, 1:30 p.m.
C. V. Woman's Club Bldg, 357 G St., C.V.
Pres.: Mrs. Lester J. Efird 479-5379
P.O. Box, 356, Bonita

CLAIREMONT GARDEN CLUB
Meets Third Tuesday, 9:30 a.m.
Place announced at each meeting.
Pres.: Mrs. R. N. Zeich 276-0551
4221 Cessna, S.D. 92117

CORONADO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
Meets Third Wednesday, 8 p.m.
Christ Church Parish Hall, Coronado
Pres.: Comdr. Phillip H. Dennler
339 B Ave., Coronado 435-3337

CROSS-TOWN GARDEN CLUB
Third Monday, Barbour Hall, University
& Pershing, 8 p.m.
President: Charles Williams 284-2317
4240 46th, S.D. 15

CROWN GARDEN CLUB OF CORONADO
Fourth Thursday, Red Cross Bldg., 1113
Adella Lane, 9:30 a.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Olin W. Jones 435-8938
831 Olive Ave., Coronado 92118

DELCADIA GARDEN CLUB
First Wednesday, Encinitas Union
Elementary School, 7:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Edwin C. Pickett 753-3890
1068 Devonshire, Encinitas

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB (PAUMA VLY.)
Second Tues., Members Homes, 1:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. J. C. Potter 745-0302
Valley Center

ESCONDIDO GARDEN CLUB
Third Fri., Women's Club House, 1:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Leonard H. Cooper 744-0550
1011 W. Encinitas Rd., San Marcos

EVA KENWORTHY GRAY BR. (BEGONIA)
2nd Sat., 1:30 p.m., Seacoast Hall, Encinitas
President: Walter Watchorn 722-3501
1450 Hunsaker, Oceanside

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB
Last Thurs., Fallbrook Woman's Club-
house, 1:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Elmery Yocubets 728-2432
1040 N. Orange, Fallbrook

GROSSMONT GARDEN CENTER
Second Mon., Grossmont Center, 10 a.m.
Pres.: Mrs. L. E. Elson 469-8009
3451 Calavo Drive, Spring Valley

HIPS AND THORNS (Old Fashioned Roses)
Meets three times yearly.
Pres.: Roy C. Lawton 422-1775
719 First Ave., C.V.

IMPERIAL BEACH GARDEN CLUB
3rd Tues., So. Bay Com. Center, 1:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Leonor Gish 424-7182
630 Alabama, Imperial Beach

LAKESIDE GARDEN CLUB
3rd Mon., Lakeside Farm School, 7:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. W. R. Kuhner 443-3163
P. O. Box 561, Lakeside

LA MESA WOMAN'S CLUB (GARDEN SEC.)
Third Thursday, La Mesa Woman's Club,
1:45 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Harry K. Ford 583-4320
4851 Lorraine Dr., S.D. 15

LEMON GROVE WOMAN'S CLUB
(GARDEN SECTION)
First Tuesday, Lemon Grove Woman's
Club House, 1 p.m.
Chairman: Mrs. O. R. Patterson
8396 Golden, Lemon Grove 466-5242

NATIONAL CITY GARDEN CLUB
Third Wednesday, National City
Community Bldg., 7:30 p.m.
President: Henry Dell 284-7346
4912 Mansfield, S. D. 16

O. C. IT GROW GARDEN CLUB
Second Wednesday, S. Oceanside
School Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. James E. Flynn 722-3509
1809 So. Horne St., Oceanside, Calif.

PACIFIC BEACH GARDEN CLUB
Meet second Monday, 7:30 p.m.
Community Club House, Gresham
and Diamond Sts., Pacific Beach
Pres.: Mrs. Ethel Hansen 273-3501
3504 Ethan Allen, S.D. 17

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
Second Wed., 9:30 a.m. Members Homes
Pres.: Mrs. Wm. C. Crosjean 748-3464
13821 Savage Way, Poway

RANCHO SANTA FE GARDEN CLUB
Second Tuesday — Club House, 2:00 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Neil J. Randol 756-1603
Rancho Santa Fe

SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB
Fourth Tues., Homes of Members, 1 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Brandon J. Neal 465-2682
6702 Jackson Dr., San Diego 19

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB
Third Wednesday, Seacoast Savings
Building, Encinitas, 10 a.m.
President: Mrs. Waldo Vogt 755-4772
773 Barbara Ave., Solana Beach

SANTA MARIA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
Second Monday, Ramona Women's
Club House, 5th and Main, 10 a.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Nelson R. Brown 789-1034
510 Fifth, Ramona

SPRINGHOUSE GARDEN CLUB
Third Thursday, Porter Hall, Univ. &
La Mesa, 7:30 p.m.
President: Mr. R. M. Frodahl 469-1933
3852 Avocado, La Mesa

VISTA GARDEN CLUB
First Fri., Vista Rec. Center, 1:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. James Sorenson 724-1745
1655 Foothill, Vista

Place—San Diego—

Buses load at:
the North End Parking
Lot, Old Civic Center
1600 Pacific Highway
Casa de Manana, La Jolla

Time—Begin loading 7 p.m.
Leave at 7:30

Donation—$1.00

Tickets—Reserve by Dec. 18
296-2267—Miss Greer
262-6457—Mrs. Bremner
232-5762—Floral Building,
MWF, 10-3
264-4167—Mrs. Garcia

La Mesa—
466-3549—Mrs. Wenzel

La Jolla—
454-6457—Mrs. Gould

(Courtesy, Historical Collection, Title Insurance and Trust Company)

Above: **Tradition that spread round the world was started at Hotel del Coronado in 1904. The suggestion of Mrs. Martha Ingersoll Robinson, mother of Mrs. Joshua Baily of San Diego, led to this first-in-the-nation electrically lighted outdoor Christmas tree.**

GIVE A FESTIVE TREAT

GET UP A PARTY FOR THE TRADITIONAL

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS TOUR

Monday Night, December 21

See churches, communities and homes aglow with heart-warming displays that create the spirit of Christmas past and present for those on this tour.

Presented by the San Diego Floral Association